CITY HILIGHTS

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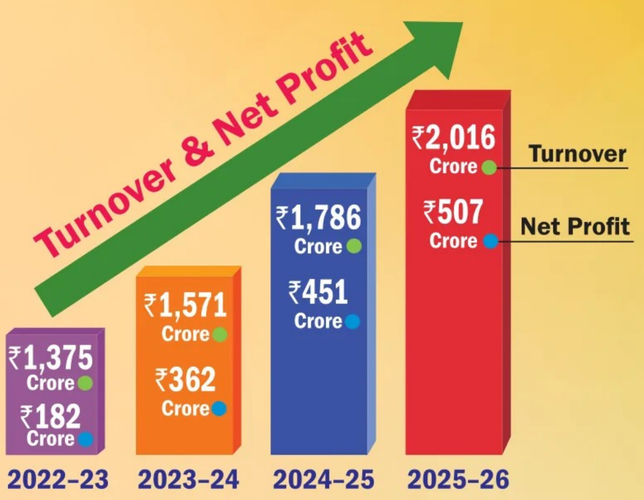
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd.
(Since 1916)

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

A Timeless Fragrance, A New Era of Performance

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd. has achieved strong growth over the past three years, setting new benchmarks in production, sales, and profits. With its iconic Mysore Sandal products and expanding market presence, the company continues to strengthen customer trust and ensure sustained progress through effective leadership and strategic planning.



Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, and Shri Appaji C.S. Nadagouda, Hon'ble MLA & Chairman, KS&DL, presenting Mysore Sandal products to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah

KS&DL achieves an all-time record in 2025–26

- **₹2,016 Crore** Turnover
- **₹507 Crore** Net Profit
- **₹150 Crore** Dividend to the govt.
  A significant leap from 21st to 1st in dividend contribution to the Govt.
- **47,494 MT** Production
- **57 New Products**
- **Increase in Exports**
- **Organising the 'Mysore Sandal Soap Mela' across the state**
- **Sandalwood cultivation expansion**
  700+ Farmers, 3,800+ Acres

From ₹1,000 crore in 105 years to ₹2,000 crore in just FOUR years
KS&DL's growth story redefined

KSDL Profit Growth: 35% CAGR over the past 5 years

The historic achievement in production, turnover and profit has been realised by enhancing efficiency without adding new machinery or increasing the workforce.

New targets set by Hon'ble Minister Shri M.B. Patil

Reaching a turnover of ₹3,000 crore by 2028 and ₹5,000 crore by 2030.

Awards and honours received by KS&DL

- Nadaprabhu Kempegowda International Award 2025 from the state government for KS&DL's remarkable achievements
- Best CEO 2025 Award from IIMM
- Excellence in CSR 2025 Award from the Directorial Advisors Consortium (DAC)
- Best Emerging State PSU 2025 Award by News18 Network

Ms. Tamannaah Bhatia, a leading name in the Indian film industry with a strong pan-India presence and over 3 crore social media followers, has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Mysore Sandal Soap.

A big thank you to all the workers, unions, staff, officers, General Manager - Administration, General Manager - Finance, for their valuable contributions to this stupendous achievement of the organisation.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Dr. S. Selvakumar, IAS, Principal Secretary
Department of Industries & Commerce

Dr. Prashaanth P.K.M., IFS, Managing Director
Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd.

Free great leaders from the fences of caste: Jnana Prakasha seer

MYSURU

Restricting the great personalities who built the nation to caste identities is an act of betrayal. If India has to remain a secular and casteless nation, great leaders must be freed from the fences of caste and brought out of caste barricades, said Jnana Prakasha Swamiji of Urilinga Peddi Mutt.

Speaking at the 135th birth anniversary celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, organized by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study and Research Centre of Karnataka State Open University here on Wednesday, he said Basavanna, who preached "Iva Nammava," is confined to one caste; Kanakadasa, who questioned caste hierarchy, is confined to another caste; and Kuvempu, who gave the message of universal humanity, is also limited to a caste identity. Such acts are an insult to history and a betrayal.

He pointed out that President Droupadi Murmu, the first citizen of India, has said that Ambedkar is equal to God for her and that Ambedkar was the reason she could become the President of India. Babasaheb, who gave people the rights of vote and voice, should live in the hearts of every Indian. Ambedkar is the conscience and breath of India.

He added that though many kings of India used weapons, they could not change the course of history. Ambedkar changed India's history through his pen. He provided education to the oppressed and ensured equal rights for people of all castes and religions. As many as 198 countries of the world salute Ambedkar, the great thinker who upheld the unity and integrity of India.

He said that in earlier times, women in this country were treated merely as child-bearing machines and confined to the kitchen. It was Ambedkar's Constitution that enabled them to rise to the position of President of the nation. Women across the country should remember Ambedkar for giving them equal pay and maternity leave, he said.

Former Mayor Purushotham said that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the great leader who ensured that education, once limited to one section of society, became accessible to all sections. He was the leader who stood firmly against inequality, exploitation, oppression, and untouchability.

He said Ambedkar did not earn 32 degrees for personal gain, but studied abroad for the upliftment of the nation and the liberation of the oppressed. Looking at him only through the lens of caste is dangerous. Even today, disrespect shown to Ambedkar's portrait is unfortunate, he added. MLA K. Harish Gowda also spoke. KSOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sharanappa V. Halse presided over the function. Registrar Prof. Naveen Kumar S.K. welcomed the gathering. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study and Research Centre Chairman Dr. Shivakumaraswamy, Ramachandra Naidu, Dr. Chandregowda, Niranjan Raj, Dr. Anand Kumar and others were present. Devananda Varaprasad and his team sang Bhim Geethe.

Mass Upanayana held at Krishna Dhaama

MYSURU

A free mass Upanayana and Brahmopadesha ceremony was conducted on Wednesday at Sri Krishna Dhaama in T.K. Layout in Mysuru under the joint auspices of Sri Krishna Trust and Sri Krishna Mitra Mandali in the city.

Following the rituals, a grand procession by the young initiates (Vatus) and Ashwaththa Pooja were also held. On this occasion, Sri Krishna Trust Vice Presidents Ravi Shastri and P.S. Shekhar, Sri Krishna Mitra Mandali President P.S. Ramesh, Srivatsa Rao, Raghavendra Prasad, Sri Krishna Mitra Mandali Vice President Praveen, Sri Krishna Trust Secretary K.V. Sridhar, and several others were present.

Bhagavad Ramanujacharya's 1009th Thirunakshatra celebrated

MYSURU

Mysuru District Sri Vaishnava Sangha organized the 1009th Thirunakshatra celebration of Jagadguru Bhagavad Ramanujacharya along with the association's annual general body meeting in Mysuru on Wednesday.

On this occasion, meritorious students—children of the Sangha members—who scored high marks in the SSLC and PUC examinations were honoured with talent awards. Programs such as bride and groom search assistance, felicitation of retired employees, and honouring senior members of the community were also organized.

Yogi Sri Srinivasamurthy Arka Swamiji of Arka Dhyana Kendra and Arka Dhama, Dr. N.V. Krishnamurthy, founder of Pragya Kuteera and Principal of Maharaja Ayurvedic College, Maralavadi Krishnamurthy, President of Karnataka State Sri Vaishnava Sangha, Bengaluru, International Attorney General and IPS officer Raghavan Krishnan, and his wife Aparna were present at the event.

The meeting was presided over by Sri Vaishnava Sangha President R. Lokesh. Mysuru District Sri Vaishnava Sangha General Secretary Puttaswamy and office-bearers were also present.

"Forced removal of janivara at CET Exam hall is condemnable"

MYSURU

Former Corporator M.V. Ramprasad strongly condemned the forced removal of the Janivara (sacred thread) of Brahmin students during the CET examination at a programme organised by the All India Unorganised Priests Workers Federation at its office in Mysuru on Wednesday.

Speaking after offering floral tributes to the portraits of Adi Guru Shankaracharya and Bhagavat Ramanujacharya during their Jayanti celebration, he criticised those who repeatedly insult the Vipra (Brahmin) community and then try to conceal their misconduct.

The former corporator said that during the ongoing CET examinations, Brahmin students were humiliated at the examination centre in Bengaluru's Krupanidhi PU College by forcibly removing their Janivara in violation of examination guidelines, which is unacceptable. Similar incidents had taken place in several parts of the state last year, and after widespread condemnation, the state government had issued strict orders to ensure that such incidents should not recur. Despite this, some examination staff with a distorted mindset had once again caused such an incident.

He demanded strict action against such staff members who misuse the law according to their convenience and display such prejudice, and urged that they be subjected to severe legal punishment. People playing with the religious sentiments of Brahmins should be controlled in the future and the government must ensure that such mistakes do not recur by taking stringent measures.

Among those present were Brahmana Yuva Vedike General Secretary Vikram Iyengar, Honorary President N. Lakshmisha, President Santosh Kumari S. Deshak, Vice President Ganesh M.V., General Secretary Ravishankar, Secretary Murari Bhat, Joint Secretary Ravindra K.R., Office Secretary K.L.V. Sharma, Organising Secretary Suresh K.V., Directors Santosh K.S., Venugopal, and others.

2nd PU exams: Ban orders issued

MYSURU

The II PUC Examination-2 will be conducted from April 30 to May 13 at five examination centres in Mysuru city.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the examinations and to prevent any untoward incidents around the exam centres, prohibitory orders have been imposed under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, within a 200-meter radius of the examination centres, along with suitable security arrangements.

Examination centres:
St. Philomena's Pre-University College, Bannimantap, Government Pre-University College, Vontikoppalu, Maharaja Government Pre-University College, JLB Road

Marimallappa Pre-University College, Seethavilasa Road, Gopalaswamy Pre-University College. Except for examinees and examination staff, unauthorized persons are prohibited from moving around these areas. No one should carry objectionable materials, and Xerox/browsing centres near the examination centres have been ordered to remain closed during the examination period, according to Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar (IPS).

Appeal for Resolution of Kodagu Coffee Board Issues

The MP also discussed the issue of loan waiver assurance given in 2015 and the long-pending dispute between the Kodagu Coffee Cooperative Society and the Coffee Board.

Since there is a court directive on the matter, necessary action must be taken, he said. Resolving the issue would help small growers elevate the Coorg/Kodagu coffee brand to a higher level and would also support the cooperative institution. He urged Piyush Goyal to take timely action in this regard, Yaduveer Wadiyar clarified.

No power supply today

MYSURU

Due to underground cable work on the 11 KV Mayura power line originating from the 66/11 KV Vijayanagar power distribution center under the V.V. Mohalla subdivision, there will be disruption in power supply to the following areas on April 30 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Areas affected by the power outage include Nisarga Layout, Chitra Residency, areas around Ganapathi Temple, Lakshmikanthanagar, and surrounding localities, according to a press release issued by the Executive Engineer of the V.V. Mohalla division.

Free pranayama therapy

MYSURU

With the objective of promoting the health and holistic well-being of humanity, free Scientific Pranayama Therapy Camps have been organized from May 1 under the guidance of Dr. Devaki Madhav and in collaboration with the AYUSH Department, Mysuru.

The aim of these camps is to create awareness among the public about improving physical health, mental balance, and overall quality of life through the scientific practice of pranayama. Health issues for which treatment/support will be provided include: Blood Pressure (BP), Diabetes, Thyroid problems, respiratory/lung issues, pain management, stress management, depression, cancer-related supportive treatment, and general health problems.

All camps will be held at 5:00 PM.
Camp venues:

May 1: Ayushman Arogya Mandir, Srirampura; Ayushman Arogya Mandir, Hinkal; Yoga and Naturopathy Hospital, K.G. Koppalu

May 3: Chamundeshwari Temple, Srirampura

May 4: Sri Rama Mandir, Ballal Circle

May 5: S.R.S. Math, Navilu Road, Kuvempunagar

For more information, contact: 9886897796, 9341202292, 7702928854, 9480136514, 9448750548, according to the District AYUSH Officer.

Rohan shines in SSLC exams

MYSORE

Master Rohan M. R, a student of Vasavi Vidhyanikethana, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru has brought great pride to his institution by securing an impressive 504 marks (80.64%) in the SSLC Examination 2026.

He is the proud son of Mohan Kumar and Radha, residents of Jayanagar, Mysore.

Poll notification issued

MYSURU

The election notification for the administrative committee of Dargahi Masjid Sunni Mandi Mohalla, Mysuru city, a Wakf institution, has been issued.

The election notification was published on April 25. The process of obtaining nomination forms began on April 27, and May 5 is the last date for submission. Scrutiny of nomination papers will be conducted on May 6. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is May 7. Voting will be held on May 17, and vote counting along with the declaration of results will also take place on May 17 after polling, according to Election Officer Mohammad Mushtaq of the Wakf institution administrative committee.

"BJP is the real opponents of women"

MYSURU

Former Minister Rani Satish alleged that the real anti-women forces are the BJP leaders and not the Congress.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress office on Tuesday, she said that the Central Government is trying to tarnish Congress by accusing it after hurriedly introducing the Women's Reservation Bill and failing in its implementation. She pointed out that Rajiv Gandhi had first encouraged the Women's Reservation Bill and had even formed a 14-member committee to study and submit a report on it.

She said that when the Congress government introduced the bill, the BJP did not extend its support. There was no provision for internal reservation within the quota, and without conducting the latest census, the BJP called a special session and introduced not only the Women's Reservation Bill but also the Constituency Delimitation Bill. The bill was brought mainly to gain political advantage in the elections of five states.

The former minister said that BJP leaders are followers of Manusmriti ideology and do not have pro-women policies, whereas Congress has always supported women. She said the bill may have some impact in the five-state elections, but BJP is emotionally blackmailing women for political gains.

She also criticized BJP women leaders, saying they had remained silent all these years and have now suddenly come out to protest against Congress. She challenged them to an open debate on women's reservation, asking, "Who are the real opponents of women's reservation—us or you?"

She said the present reservation proposal is unscientific and claimed that proper scientific constituency delimitation has not been done before introducing reservation in haste. She highlighted that many women gained political power because of the reservation provided by Congress in local bodies. She also remarked sarcastically that every word Prime Minister Narendra Modi says is false and mocked BJP by saying that even their household deity is false.

Former MLC Veena Achayya, AICC in-charge Parijan, Mysuru Rural Women's President Prema, and Secretary Pushpalatha Chikkanna were present.

MP Yaduveer urges reforms in Tobacco auction system, submits memorandum

MYSURU

Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar submitted a memorandum to Union Minister Piyush Goyal seeking immediate measures to resolve the problems faced by tobacco growers and to bring reforms in the tobacco auction process.

After meeting Goyal in New Delhi and submitting the memorandum, Yaduveer said that discussions were held regarding a comprehensive review of the current season, urgent measures to provide long-term structural solutions to the challenges faced by farmers, and the need to prevent monopolistic control in the auction system.

Need for New Policy Measures

He highlighted the importance of allowing wider participation of foreign buyers in the auction process and stressed that there is a need to think about new policy measures. Priority should be given to reforms in auction procedures to ensure transparency, fair price discovery, and stability in procurement for farmers, he explained while briefing the Union Minister.

Concern was also expressed over the increasing growth of illegal cigarette trade. He informed the Minister that stricter regulation and implementation of reform measures are essential to protect farmers as well as stakeholders in the legal tobacco industry.

Yaduveer stated that protecting farmers' livelihoods, ensuring stable income, and addressing all challenges faced by the sector are crucial. A request was made to further strengthen and develop this sector, he added.

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THURSDAY ▸ APRIL 30, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 285 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

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Sooryavanshi becomes fastest batter to 400 IPL season runs in deliveries **P12**

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BENGALURU RAIN TURNS DEADLY

7 killed in hospital wall collapse

CM visits spot and pulls up officials over negligence; announces an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each for kin of deceased; directs officials to ensure free treatment to injured; orders immediate probe

BENGALURU

Seven people, including two children, were killed while several others were injured after a compound wall of the Bengaluru's Bowring Hospital collapsed on them due to heavy rains on Wednesday evening.

The deceased have been identified as Mohammed Abdul Haq (52) from JC Nagar (cloth Business); Fayaz Ahmmed (39) from DJ Halli (footwear business); Musaveer Begum (6) from KG Halli (student) - all from Bengaluru; Salauddin Ansari (36) from Uttar Pradesh (vendor); Nasimulla (19) from Assam (car stickering on Thimmayya Road); Latha KK (57) from Ranamanagulam of Kerala's Eranakulam (visitor); Smitha (47) from Ranamanagulam in Kerala (visitor).

Thouse injured include Priti (51), Siji (45), and Maya (51) — all tourists from Kerala; Tabreen Taj (47), Mubeen Taj (49), Azzu (35), and Sajid (20) — all local residents; Syed Zameer and Samiulla (street vendors), who are under treatment at the Victoria Hospital.

Most of the victims were roadside vendors, who had been doing business for years on the footpath adjoining the hospital's compound wall in the busy Shivajinagar. The children were reportedly present with elders due to the summer vacation and the two deceased women were from Kerala.

Police, fire department, and emergency services personnel rushed to the spot and launched a debris clearance operation.

As per onlookers, those present at the spot did not get the time to run away as the wall collapsed on them suddenly and they were all buried under the debris. Other street vendors and shopkeepers pulled out some of those buried under the debris and shifted them to the hospital.

Eyewitnesses said vendors and pedestrians had taken shelter beside an old wall, using a large tarpaulin sheet for cover as the rain intensified. "As the rain and winds picked up suddenly, people gathered under the tarpaulin. Within moments, the wall collapsed."

CM pulls up officials

CM Siddaramaiah along with top cop Seemath Kumar Singh visited the spot and the emergency ward of the Bowring Hospital. The CM gathered information from officials and announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased and directed officials to ensure free treatment to the injured. "What action have you taken? Couldn't you inspect the old wall? Was there no coordination among departments? This tragedy could have been prevented had proper precautions been taken," he reportedly told officials.

City roads get hail carpet

A sudden and intense hailstorm swept across parts of Bengaluru, catching residents off guard and briefly transforming parts of the city into icy landscapes. The impact was most striking at the Kanteerava Stadium, where the ground was covered with a thick layer of hailstones, forming an unusual white blanket rarely seen in the city. Hailstorm was reported in Queens Road, Shantinagar, Lalbagh, Wilson Garden, Jayanagar, MG Road, Shivajinagar, Majestic, Malleswaram, JP Nagar, Basavanagudi and other areas,

Rains down parts of city under water

The downpour disrupted evening traffic, leaving commuters stranded in multiple stretches. Many two-wheeler riders took shelter under flyovers and skywalks, while roadside vendors struggled to protect their goods. With the rains, the city, from being parched, witnessed waterlogging in just two hours. There was waist-deep water in many areas in the city such as Richmond Town and Shanthinagar, resembling a river.

Winds bring several trees down

The rain also led to incidents of damage. Trees were uprooted in some areas due to strong winds, including on the Sheshadripuram–Malleswaram Road, leading to temporary closure. In Goraguntepalya, a fallen tree damaged a parked car, though no injuries were reported. At Shivananda Circle, a large tree collapse damaged three cars and four bikes. Uprooting of trees was also reported at Malleswaram, Shanthinagar, RT Nagar, HAL, Vijayanagar, Chamarajpet, Cubbon Park, JP Nagar, Upparpet, Halasuru Gate, Wilson Garden, Sadashivanagar, Mico Layout and High Ground.

Water enters Vidhana Soudha

The unexpected rain did not spare Vidhana Soudha, the seat of power as rainwater gushed reportedly inside the government offices from the lobby, the first-floor corridor and the office of the Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka. Files, computers and furniture were reportedly affected. Waterlogging was also reported at the KSRTC Hospital. Rainwater also entered the Banashankari Metro station, inundating the ticket counter area.

Residents cheer as rain finally falls

Residents, who had been reeling under temperatures touching 37°C in recent days, expressed joy over the sudden change in weather, with social media flooding with scenes of rain-soaked streets and celebrations of the lowered temperatures which dipped to around 27°C to 29°C in some areas.

IMD forecast further rain

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast further rain and thunderstorms until at least May 5, with winds of 30–40 kmph and chances of hail in isolated areas.

Bengal logs 91.66% turnout

KOLKATA

West Bengal has recorded its highest-ever voter turnout since Independence, with an impressive 91.66% polling in Phase-2 of the Assembly elections on Wednesday, said the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Polling for Phase-II began at 7 am and continued till evening, with voter participation reaching 91.66% by 7:45 pm. Combined with Phase-I turnout of 93.19%, the overall polling percentage across the first two phases stands at a record 92.47%, surpassing the previous high of 84.72% recorded in the 2011 Assembly elections.

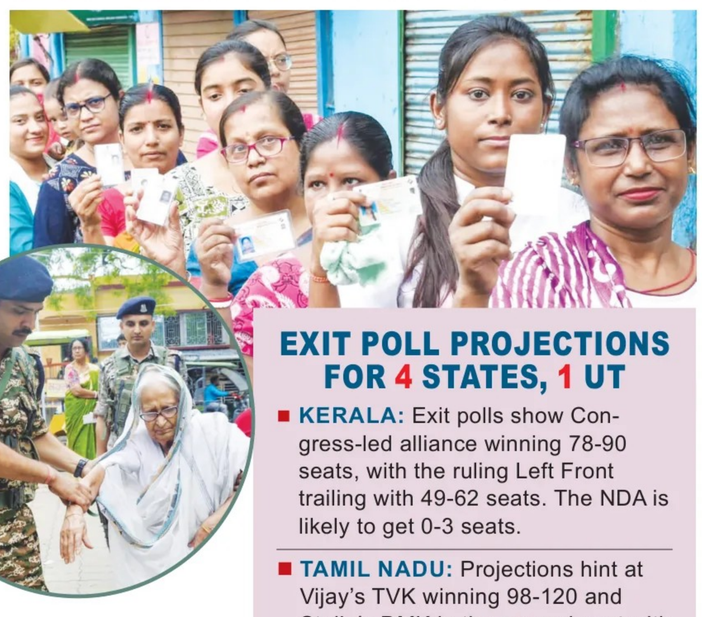
Gender-wise data for Phase-II indicates strong participation across all groups, with female voter turnout at 92.28%, higher than male turnout at 91.07%, while third-gender participation stood at 91.28%.

CEC Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners SS Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, monitored the polling process closely through live webcasting, which was implemented across 100% of polling stations in Phase-II.

The EC said the high turnout reflects robust voter engagement and confidence in the electoral process. Several voter-friendly initiatives were implemented to enhance participation, including colour photographs of candidates on EVM ballot papers, mobile deposit facilities, redesigned voter information slips, and a cap of 1,200 electors per polling station to reduce crowding.

Special arrangements were also made to assist Persons with Disabilities (PwD), including provision of wheelchairs, volunteers, and transport facilities to polling stations. Across both phases, polling was conducted in 294 Assembly constituencies spanning 24 districts, with over 6.81 crore electors and nearly 2,926 candidates in the fray. More than 85,000 polling stations and over 4.26 lakh polling personnel were deployed to ensure smooth conduct of elections.

The ECI noted that the turnout figures are provisional and do not yet include service voters and postal ballots. Final figures will be released after complete data compilation.



EXIT POLL PROJECTIONS FOR 4 STATES, 1 UT

- **KERALA:** Exit polls show Congress-led alliance winning 78-90 seats, with the ruling Left Front trailing with 49-62 seats. The NDA is likely to get 0-3 seats.
- **TAMIL NADU:** Projections hint at Vijay's TVK winning 98-120 and Stalin's DMK in the second spot with 92-110 seats, and the NDA slipping to third spot with 22-32 seats.
- **WEST BENGAL:** Exit polls predict hung assembly, setback for Mamata; a close fight between TMC (131-152 seats) and the BJP (138-159 seats).
- **ASSAM:** Polls give clear majority to NDA with 88-100 seats, Congress - 24-36 seats, AIUDF set to go blank, others are expected to get between zero and three seats.
- **PUDUCHERRY:** NDA alliance is expected to get 16-20 out of total of 30 seats, DMK-Congress alliance - 6-8 seats and TVK - 2-4 seats.

Rajanna: If Rahul Gandhi asks, Siddaramaiah will resign

This signals a shift in the stance of the Siddaramaiah camp, which has maintained that there would not, and should not, be any change in leadership

BENGALURU

Senior Congress leader KN Rajanna said Tuesday that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will "sacrifice power" if top party leader Rahul Gandhi asks him to step down.

This signals a shift in the stance of the Siddaramaiah camp, which has maintained that there would not, and should not, be any change in leadership.

"The chief minister has an open mind. He has said he would abide by the directions of the high command and Rahul Gandhi, and that everyone should cooperate," Rajanna, a Siddaramaiah loyalist, said.

"The CM's mindset is that he is ready to sacrifice power or continue in power as per Rahul Gandhi's directions. He will abide by Gandhi's decision."

Rajanna's statement is being seen as the Siddaramaiah camp's attempt to mount pressure on Rahul Gandhi to decide on the leadership dispute with Shivakumar. In political circles, Rahul is seen as amiable towards Siddaramaiah.

Rajanna, the Madhugiri MLA, also urged the high command to clear the confusion surrounding the chief minister's tenure.

"The longer the confusion continues, the more detrimental it is for the party and governance," he said.

If Siddaramaiah is replaced, the next chief minister should be a Dalit, Rajanna said. "I'm committed to the statement that there should be a Dalit CM."

Rajanna, who recently lamented that Siddaramaiah had become "helpless", reiterated his statement: "Compare Siddaramaiah as CM during 2013-18 and 2023 to now, there's a huge difference and people are talking about it."

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi and Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa, both Siddaramaiah supporters, are in Delhi. Last week, Shivakumar spent a couple of days in the national capital.

Why leadership change?

Supporters of DyCM DK Shivakumar and some party leaders are demanding a change in leadership after 2.5 years of the current administration.

Renukaswamy murder: Actor Darshan files fresh bail plea in SC

NEW DELHI

Kannada film actor Darshan Thogudepa has filed a fresh plea in the Supreme Court seeking bail in the 2024 Renukaswamy murder case.

Notably, the top court had on August 14, 2025 cancelled the bail granted to him and other accused including Pavithra Gowda.

In his fresh plea, he contended only 15 witnesses out of 273 witnesses have been examined during the eight months since the trial began.

The examination of all the witnesses will take a long time to complete, his plea stated.

The 47-year-old Kannada actor, was first arrested on June 11, 2024 in connection with the murder of 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a native of Chitradurga.

The victim's body was discovered near a stormwater drain in Bengaluru on June 9, 2024.

END TO UNREST?

Dialogue reset in Ladakh as Shah lands in Leh

LEH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will arrive in Leh on Thursday for a two-day visit amid growing expectations from Ladakh-based groups seeking talks on statehood and constitutional safeguards for the Union Territory.

Sources indicated that Shah is likely to keep his itinerary limited to paying respects to the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha on May 1 and reviewing administrative and security arrangements with local officials and Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel. The visit schedule has not been officially released.

Leaders of the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance have sought a meeting with the Home Minister to press demands for statehood and inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. However, officials suggested that the Centre may wait until the next round of sub-committee talks scheduled for May 22 before deciding further political steps.

KDA leader Sajjad Kargili said the groups remain hopeful of direct dialogue with Shah during the visit. LAB co-chairperson Chering Dorjay also urged the Home Minister to chair a high-powered committee meeting in Ladakh.

The Holy Relics of Lord Buddha arrived in Leh on Wednesday and will remain on public display from May 1 to 15. Vinai Kumar Saxena received the relics at Leh airport along with senior officials, describing the occasion as a blessing for the region.

'83 protesters detained, out on bail'

Meanwhile, officials confirmed that all 83 people detained following violent protests in Leh last September, including climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, have been released on bail. However, no decision has yet been taken on withdrawing cases linked to the protests.

CURBING OF NARCOTICS AND HABIT-FORMING MEDICINES

Dc Reddy and Police Chief Seema visit medical stores in Mysuru

MYSURU

Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the NARCO Committee, G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, issued a stern warning that strict legal action will be taken against medical stores found selling medicines listed under Schedule H, H1, and X of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, without a valid doctor's prescription.

As part of intensified efforts to prevent the misuse of narcotic, habit-forming, sedative, and other restricted medicines, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a surprise inspection at a Medical Store located on New Sayyaji Rao Road in Mysuru on Wednesday.

During the visit, he examined bills, prescription records, and sale registers related to medicines falling under Schedule H, H1, and X of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1940.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that many youngsters are getting trapped in the dangerous web of substance abuse by purchasing addictive medicines without medical prescriptions. The medical shops must strictly follow all instructions issued by the district administration and the government regarding the sale of such medicines.

All pharmacies must prominently display notices in front of their shops informing the public that a doctor's prescription is mandatory for purchasing medicines listed under Schedule H, H1, and X.

Under these schedules, there are nearly 50 types of medicines including Alprazolam, Codeine, and Tapentadol, which fall under restricted and monitored categories. Medical store owners have been instructed to maintain proper records of stock, sales, doctors' prescriptions, and bills for these medicines and produce them whenever officials conduct inspections.

Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi, who also spoke during the inspection, said that there are a large number of medical stores across the district, making it difficult for drug control authorities alone to inspect every outlet. Therefore, the Police Department will also intensify inspections to ensure compliance and prevent illegal sale of such medicines.

During the inspection, Mysuru City Police Commissioner Seema Latkar, Assistant Drug Controllers Asha Latha and Vaseem Shariff were present.

Check on illegal liquor and narcotic activities

Excise Dept officials conduct surprise raids

MYSURU

The Excise Department carried out a special inspection drive across Mysuru city and district on Wednesday targeting suspicious and vulnerable locations as part of its continued efforts to curb illegal liquor trade and narcotic activities.

As per the directions of the Joint Commissioner of Excise (Enforcement and Investigation), Mysuru Division, the operation was conducted under the leadership of H.K. Ramesh, Deputy Superintendent of Excise, Mysuru Sub-Division, Mysuru City District.

Under his direct supervision, teams comprising Excise Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors, and staff members carried out extensive raids and inspections at several locations within Mysuru city limits. The inspection covered areas including Bannimantap surroundings, the vicinity of Radico Distillery, N.R. Mohalla, C.V. Mohalla, godowns, scrap shops, and other suspected locations where illegal excise-related activities were likely to take place.

The department closely monitored these areas to identify any illegal storage, transportation, or sale of excise goods, illicit liquor, or narcotic substances.

During the course of the raids, officials reported that no illegal excise materials, illicit liquor, or narcotic substances were found at any of the inspected locations. The operation was conducted successfully and peacefully without any untoward incidents.

Pics by Hampa Nagaraju

Rise in temperature: Cattle gasping for relief

Pets fed watermelon and musk melons to keep them cool

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

Mysuru's soaring summer temperatures are not only troubling people but are also making life extremely difficult for the city's cattle population. The relentless heatwave conditions have turned the streets into virtual furnaces, forcing cows and buffaloes to struggle for survival under the blazing sun.

Usually, cows and buffaloes are seen in large numbers wandering across various parts of Mysuru city, especially in residential layouts, market areas, and roadside stretches. However, with temperatures touching alarming levels, these animals have almost disappeared from the roads during the peak afternoon hours between 11 am and 4 pm.

Unable to withstand the scorching heat, the cattle seek refuge under large trees, shady corners, and quiet spaces where they can escape direct sunlight. Many animals are seen standing motionless under whatever shade they can find, desperately trying to protect themselves from dehydration and heat exhaustion.

Another major concern is the severe shortage of green fodder. The intense summer heat has dried up grass and grazing patches, leaving cows and buffaloes with very little fresh feed. This has made survival even tougher for both stray cattle and domesticated animals.

Elders recall that during the Maharaja's era, large stone water troughs, locally known as stone thottis, were installed across the city to provide drinking water for animals. These traditional structures served as lifelines for thirsty cattle, horses, and other animals during summer. However, many of these stone troughs have now been removed by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), leaving animals without easy access to water.

Cattle owners, too, are taking precautions by avoiding letting their animals out during the daytime. Most prefer to release their cows and buffaloes only after sunset when temperatures become bearable.

Animal lovers and residents are urging the authorities to immediately make arrangements for water points across the city so that thirsty cattle can get relief during the harsh summer months.

Meanwhile, pet owners are going the extra mile to protect their dogs from the heat. Many are feeding their pets watermelon and muskmelon to help keep them cool. Frequent baths with cold water and constant access to fresh drinking water are being ensured to prevent dehydration and sunstroke. As summer intensifies, Mysuru's speechless animals silently wait for compassion—and timely action.

Innovative "Deminar" on resilient concrete hosted at VVCE

MYSURU

The Department of Civil Engineering at Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering in association ACCE(I) Mysore Centre and the IGS Mysuru Chapter organized one-day "Deminar" on Resilient Concrete here on Wednesday.

The event marked a significant milestone of the ACCE Mysore Centre's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The function was formally inaugurated by a panel of distinguished conveners, including and President of the event P Vishwanath (Hon.secretory, VVCE Mysuru) , Basavaraju S B (Chairman, ACCE(I) Mysore Centre), Srikanth C S (Hon. Secretary, ACCE(I) Mysore Centre), Dr. B Sadashive Gowda (Principal, VVCE Mysuru) and Dr. S K Prasad (Professor & Head, Dept. of Civil Engineering). During the ceremony, the dignitaries addressed a large gathering of Civil Engineering students from six different colleges across the Mysuru region.

Basavaraju* spoke extensively about the achievements of the ACCE(I) and its commitment to professional excellence, while Prakash (from the ACCE team) highlighted the significance of the Silver Jubilee events. The seminar drew a significant crowd, with students from six different engineering colleges in and around the Mysuru region such as These are prominent engineering institutions in and around Mysuru, JSS Science and Technology University (formerly SJCE) , Maharaja Institute of Technology Mysore (MITM) , Maharaja Institute of Technology Thandavapura (MITT) , ATME College of Engineering , The National Institute of Engineering (NIE) are participating in this specialized technical exchange.

The program transitioned from theory to practice through a series of expert-led technical sessions and live laboratory demonstrations. Renowned experts N. R. Ashok and "ConCroc" Nagesh spearheaded the technical discussions, focusing on managing concrete mixes for special conditions and the critical importance of concrete resilience in modern construction. A highlight of the day was the afternoon "lab-to-hall" live broadcast, where participants witnessed demonstrations of UltraTech ready-to-use products and a trial mix procedure conducted by the VVCE lab staff and student volunteers. This immersive "Deminar" format provided the budding engineers with a comprehensive look at the lifecycle of high-performance concrete, from complex mix design calculations to real-world application.

"Students must set goals with dedication and achieve success in life"

MYSURU

Students must cultivate discipline, devotion, and determination, set clear goals, and work hard to achieve success in life, said Rekha, taluk welfare officer of the Department of Backward Classes Welfare.

Speaking after inaugurating the farewell function organized for final-year students and also the felicitation programme for students who secured high marks in II PUC at D. Devaraj Urs Post-Matric Boys Hostel here on Wednesday, she said they must shape their lives beautifully and grow into responsible citizens of society. They should respect their teachers and elders and strive for the development of the nation. Along with education, continuous hard work and self-confidence are essential to achieve success.

She pointed out that Raghavendra, who once studied in the BCM hostel, is now serving as an officer, and Kumar from Mandya has become a Deputy Commissioner. Students should take inspiration from such achievers and work towards building similar success in their own lives.

Rekha also appreciated hostel warden Jagadish Kori, stating that he has been serving like a disciplined and dedicated guardian for the students and urged the students to become ideal children to their parents and attain respectable positions in society.

Hostel Warden Jagadish Kori, said that students studying at D. Devaraj Urs Hostel can definitely achieve success if they remain sincere, disciplined, and dedicated in their studies. Resource persons and knowledgeable individuals are regularly invited to guide and mentor the students for their academic growth.

He further said that students must make the best use of government facilities and welfare schemes available to them and work towards securing higher positions and bringing pride to themselves and their families.

Extension Officer Sujendrakumar, hostel caretakers Mahalakshmi, Nagarathna, Nagaraj, Ramya, Anupama, Rekha, Bhagyalakshmi, Parameshwarappa, Dhananjaya, Tejaswini, Arpitha, and Lokesh were present during the programme.

MLA T.S. Srivatsa and DC visit house damaged in cylinder blast

MYSURU

Krishnaraja Assembly Constituency MLA T.S. Srivatsa and District Commissioner Lakshmikanth Reddy visited the house damaged in a cylinder explosion at 4th Cross, T.K. Layout, Ward No. 43 of the K.R. Constituency in Mysuru on Wednesday.

After learning about the incident in which a cylinder exploded and caused severe damage to the house, Srivatsa and Chamaraja Constituency MLA Harish Gowda had earlier visited the spot and assured the family that the Deputy Commissioner and the City Corporation Commissioner would also be brought to the site for inspection.

As promised, the MLA, along with the DC Lakshmikanth Reddy and the City Corporation Commissioner, visited the location today. They inspected the house affected by the fire accident and held discussions regarding the damage caused.

The officials consoled Amruth and his family members and assured them that necessary steps would be taken to provide all possible assistance from the government. The DC also directed senior officials of the gas company to visit the spot and assess the situation.

Former City Corporation member Gopi Jagadish, BJP President Gopal Raje Urs, leaders Poornima Chandrappa, Kencha Madhu, Basavaraju, Ramesh Kannu, Lohith Sharma, Arun, local residents, Assistant Commissioner of Zone Office-3 Sandeep, and Development Officer Sathyamurthy were present on the occasion.

Awareness Programme on harmful effects of drugs held

MYSURU

An awareness lecture programme on the topic "Drug Abuse: Its Harmful Effects and Awareness" was organized jointly by the NSS Unit of Basudeva Somani College, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru, and the Kuvempunagar Police Station in Mysuru on Wednesday.

During the programme, Kuvempunagar Police Station Sub-Inspector Shri Madhan Kumar V addressed the students and said that the use of narcotic substances causes severe damage to a person's physical, mental, social, and economic life. He explained that addiction not only destroys an individual's life but also affects the family and society. Drug abuse directly impacts brain functioning.

The police officer pointed out that in today's modern world, many youths are becoming victims of bad habits, and as a result, every year many people suffer from serious diseases such as cancer, pneumonia, heart-related illnesses, and other fatal health problems. Therefore, it is extremely necessary to provide proper guidance to today's youth about the harmful consequences of drug abuse.

He urged students to stay away from such bad habits and informed that if any student is found involved in drug addiction, the information can be shared with the police department through a QR code scan. The identity of the person providing the information would be kept confidential. He appealed to everyone to cooperate in building a clean and healthy society.

On the occasion, Geethanjali P., Chief Administrative Officer and Managing Trustee of the Institute of Education Trust, also addressed the gathering and advised students to stay away from drug addiction, focus on education, and build a better life for themselves.

Presiding over the programme, College Principal Dr. Mahadevaswamy M. said that every student should create awareness among people around them about the dangers of drug abuse and contribute towards building a healthy society.

Police personnel Gangaraju, Basavaraju, Manjunath, and Assistant Professor Kavya J were present during the programme. Dr. T. Ramesh, NSS Programme Officer, delivered the introductory remarks. Teaching and non-teaching staff of the college along with students were present at the event.

QUICK READ

KEA to hold CET counselling awareness programme in May

CH News, Bengaluru
The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will organise a CET seat-allotment awareness programme in the second week of May to guide students on option entry and counselling for engineering and medical admissions. The initiative comes after several students reportedly made mistakes during option entry last year. KEA had earlier conducted counselling discussions in government and aided engineering colleges, which received a positive response. To streamline this year's programme, KEA has planned a two-day awareness exercise. A preparatory workshop on counselling will be held in Bengaluru on May 9, and colleges have been asked to send three lecturers each for participation.

SSLC failed students must register for exam-2: Madhu Bangarappa

CH News, Bengaluru
School Education and Literacy Minister S Madhu Bangarappa has directed officials to ensure all students who failed SSLC examination-1 register for the upcoming examination-2. The minister instructed Deputy Directors across the state to take steps to prepare and register the 45,415 students who could not clear the first exam. The move comes after SSLC results recorded a historic 94.2 percent pass percentage among freshers. Madhu Bangarappa said no student should discontinue education because of exam setbacks. The government will allow students to appear for the second exam free of cost, while those seeking score improvement can also take the examination.

BHEL Basava Kalyana Reading Room shifted temporarily

CH News, Bengaluru
The City Central Library, West Zone, has temporarily shifted the BHEL Basava Kalyana Reading Room to the BBMP Building opposite Skyline Apartments, 2nd Block, Maruthi Nagar, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru-72. According to a statement issued by the Deputy Director of the West Zone Urban Central Library, Hampinagar, the relocation has been made on a temporary basis to ensure uninterrupted services for readers. The reading room will function daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and again from 4 pm to 8 pm.
Members of the public have been requested to cooperate during the temporary relocation period. For further details, citizens may contact 080-23209691.

HC directs private school staff to participate in census duty without fail

Court says census work is national responsibility and cooperation from institutions essential always

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Observing that the census is a national task and every citizen must cooperate with it, the Karnataka High Court has directed a private school in Bengaluru to ensure its teaching staff participate in the ongoing census operations without delay.A bench headed by Justice Sachin Shankar Magadam instructed the principal of The Brigade School in J.P. Nagar to immediately recall teachers currently on leave and ensure they report for census duty before the Census Commissioner within a week.The court also stated that no coercive action, including the filing of an FIR under Section 11 of the Census Act, should be initiated against the school principal, provided the institution complies with the directions and makes the teachers available for duty.The observations came during the hearing of a petition filed by school principal Subhar Jain challenging a notice issued by the Chief Census Officer of the Bengaluru South Municipal Corporation. The notice had warned the school of legal action for failing to deploy teachers for census-related work.During the proceedings, the High Court questioned how the government could successfully conduct such a massive national exercise if educational institutions failed to cooperate."The census is conducted once in 10 to 11 years. Every household has to be visited, information must be collected and recorded. If school principals begin acting in this manner, how will the government complete the census?" the bench observed.

The court further directed the petitioner to submit a detailed list of teachers currently available in the school during the next hearing and adjourned the matter.As per the government schedule, the first phase of the nationwide census began on April 1 with self-enumeration, while the second phase involving door-to-door verification commenced on April 16. The process is expected to continue until September 2026.According to submissions made before the court, the Bengaluru South Municipal Corporation had issued a letter to the school on April 9 directing deployment of staff for census work. The school subsequently approached the High Court challenging the directive. Counsel appearing for the petitioner informed the bench that 84 teachers were available and could be assigned for census work. However, several other staff members were reportedly abroad on vacation due to the summer break.The High Court stressed that participation in census activities is not optional and institutions must extend full cooperation to authorities carrying out the nationwide exercise.

Cab driver alleges lizard found in paneer tikka roll, falls ill after bakery visit

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 32-year-old cab driver has alleged that he found a lizard inside a paneer tikka roll purchased from a bakery on Magadi Main Road and later fell ill, leading to his hospitalisation. According to a complaint filed at Govindaraja Nagar Police Station, the incident occurred on April 25 near the Housing Board area.The complainant, N.K. Deepu, a resident of Agrahara Dasarahalli, told police that he had skipped lunch that day and stopped at the bakery around 4 pm for snacks. He first consumed a piece of honey cake and later ordered a chicken roll. However, after being informed that chicken rolls were unavailable, he opted for a paneer tikka roll instead.

Victoria Hospital's new Q Block ready after seven years, to boost patient care

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Medical Superintendent Dr Deepak said the Q Block would greatly help in streamlining patient flow and enhancing treatment efficiency within the hospital. "With the opening of the Q Block, pressure on the existing infrastructure will reduce considerably, allowing us to manage patients more effectively," he said. Hospital authorities expect the facility to become fully operational soon, marking a major milestone in Bengaluru's public healthcare system.

Newly built Q Block, named to mark 125 years of Victoria Hospital, will offer advanced surgical care, special wards, and modern infrastructure for patients.

After nearly seven years of construction and planning, Bengaluru's historic Victoria Hospital is set to open its newly developed 'Q Block', a massive 10-storey facility aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and easing pressure on the existing hospital system.

The new building, named 'Q Block' (Quasquicentennial) to commemorate 125 years of Victoria Hospital's service, is expected to significantly improve patient care, especially for economically weaker and middle-class sections who depend heavily on government healthcare facilities.

Hospital authorities said the block has been designed with modern infrastructure and specialised healthcare services. The first five floors will house surgical and general wards, while two additional floors have been reserved for special wards. Two floors have been dedicated entirely to advanced operation theatre facilities, and one floor has been earmarked for VVIP use.

The facility includes eight state-of-the-art operation theatres and 40 beds in special wards. A helipad has also been constructed atop the building to facilitate rapid transportation of organs for emergency and transplant procedures, a feature expected to improve critical care response time.Officials further confirmed that the orthopaedic department, currently functioning in older sections of the hospital, will be shifted to the new block once operations commence.

The hospital administration believes the new infrastructure will substantially improve access to specialised treatment for patients who otherwise struggle to afford expensive procedures in private hospitals. Treatments such as knee and hip replacement surgeries, which can cost between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 3 lakh in private facilities, are expected to become more accessible through the upgraded public healthcare system.Currently, Victoria Hospital operates with around 910 general beds and handles a massive patient load every day. On average, the hospital receives between 1,200 and 1,300 outpatients daily, while 150 to 170 new patients are admitted every day. The institution also performs nearly 30 to 35 major surgeries and around 150 minor surgeries daily.

Kumaraswamy expresses shock over Bengaluru rain deaths, seeks permanent solutions

BENGALURU

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday expressed deep shock over the deaths caused by heavy rains in Bengaluru and urged the Karnataka government to implement permanent measures to prevent such tragedies in future.In a statement, Kumaraswamy said the collapse of a compound wall at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, which claimed seven lives including children, was heartbreaking and deeply disturbing. He extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident.The Union Minister urged the state government to ensure immediate and comprehensive medical treatment for the injured and provide all necessary support to affected families.Kumaraswamy said repeated rain-related tragedies in Bengaluru indicate that authorities have failed to learn lessons from past incidents. Stressing the need for long-term planning, he questioned how the hospital compound wall collapsed and sought a detailed probe into the incident, including when the structure was built and whether negligence was involved.

He demanded strict action against officials or agencies found responsible for lapses.

The minister also stated that compensation alone cannot be the government's response to such disasters and emphasised that preventive action and infrastructure preparedness should be prioritised.

Expressing concern over the handling of rain-related emergencies, Kumaraswamy remarked that authorities appeared to be "preparing during wartime after disaster strikes," highlighting what he termed a lack of timely planning and proactive governance in the city.

State plans negative scoring system for registration staff postings to tackle corruption

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

In a major move aimed at curbing corruption in the Stamps and Registration Department, the Karnataka government has proposed a negative scoring system for transfers and postings of sub-registrars, senior registration officers and first division assistants (FDAs).

Under the proposed system, officials facing criminal complaints, Lokayukta investigations or serious departmental inquiries may lose eligibility for preferred postings and could be shifted prematurely to non-executive roles or less influential Zone-C offices.

The proposal comes in the wake of several high-profile irregularities in property registrations, including a major Bengaluru case earlier this year in which five sub-registrars were suspended for allegedly facilitating illegal registration of 1,322 properties. Among them was land belonging to Infosys valued at nearly Rs 250 crore. Officials were accused of bypassing e-khata norms and misusing the Kaveri 2.0 software system.

Postings within Bengaluru have long been viewed as highly lucrative, with allegations that officials spend large amounts to secure positions in high-value jurisdictions and later recover money through illegal collections or "speed money" for fast-tracking registrations.

To address these concerns, the draft Karnataka Civil Services (Counselling Based Transfers in Stamps and Registration Department) Rules, 2026 proposes a marks-based transfer mechanism where disciplinary records directly affect career mobility.

As per the draft, pending criminal cases, Lokayukta probes and departmental proceedings will reduce an employee's overall score. Officials with higher negative scores will face reduced chances of obtaining favourable postings.

The draft rules also mandate that transfers be conducted only through a digital counselling system.

FRONTLINE WORKERS STRUGGLE THROUGH EXTREME HEAT WITHOUT BASIC FACILITIES OR RELIEF

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

As Bengaluru continues to reel under rising summer temperatures, thousands of frontline workers across the city are battling harsh heat conditions daily, often without access to drinking water, toilets or even short breaks during work hours.

While many residents stay indoors to escape the sweltering weather, delivery personnel, sanitation workers and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) continue working outdoors for long hours, exposing themselves to serious health risks.

The realities faced by these workers came to light during a workshop on "Extreme Heat and its Impact on Bengaluru," organised on Tuesday by the Karnataka Media Academy and Asar Social Impact Advisors.

Farhana, an ASHA worker from Rajajinagar, described the intense physical strain she experiences while covering nearly 500 to 600 households every day.

"By the time I begin my rounds, the sun is already unbearable. I walk nearly 8 to 10 kilometres daily carrying supplies, registers and weighing equipment. There is hardly any room to carry water," she said.Farhana explained that she is responsible for monitoring the health needs of around 3,000 residents in densely populated areas, often climbing multiple floors in poorly ventilated buildings that trap heat.

She also pointed to the lack of basic amenities during fieldwork. "Even if we drink water, there are hardly any public toilets available. Sometimes we find paid restrooms, but not always," she added.

According to her, the silk crepe sari provided as part of the uniform becomes extremely uncomfortable during summer due to continuous sweating and prolonged outdoor exposure.

PROTECT HEALTH

Doctors caution against food spoilage risks

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The recent deaths of four family members in Mumbai due to suspected food poisoning have sparked fresh concerns over food safety, with doctors in Bengaluru warning that rising summer temperatures are creating ideal conditions for rapid food spoilage and bacterial contamination.

As temperatures continue to soar across the city, health experts are urging residents to pay close attention to food preparation, storage and hygiene practices to avoid infections and gastrointestinal illnesses.According to Aditi Prasad Apte, Clinical Nutritionist at Aster RV Hospital, warm weather and humidity significantly accelerate bacterial growth in commonly consumed foods."Unrefrigerated milk, curd and paneer can spoil within hours. Bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli multiply rapidly in cooked rice and leftovers," she said. Doctors noted that certain foods become especially vulnerable during summer. Fruits such as berries, bananas and cut melons spoil quickly, while leafy vegetables tend to wilt and rot faster. Meat, poultry and seafood also require strict temperature control, and cream-filled bakery products can become unsafe almost immediately if left unrefrigerated.Medical experts stressed that visible changes in food often indicate contamination. Dairy products with sour odours, curdling or slimy textures should be discarded immediately. Similarly, cooked rice or rotis that become sticky, develop spots or emit foul smells should not be consumed.Dr C.K. Adarsh, Head of Medical Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Advanced Endoscopy at Gleneagles BGS Hospital, advised people not to leave cooked rice at room temperature for more than two hours.

HC grants interim relief to solar and wind power producers over DSM penalties

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has granted interim relief to renewable energy producers by restraining authorities from enforcing stricter provisions under the revised Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) regulations against petitioners, including solar and wind energy stakeholders.

The interim order was passed while hearing petitions filed by the National Solar Energy Federation of India and other renewable energy producers challenging the revised DSM framework that came into effect from April 1.Under the new regulations, renewable energy generators are required to declare in advance the expected power generation for each pooling station or generating station for the following day and week. The revised regime also introduces tighter deviation limits and enhanced financial penalties for shortfall or excess supply compared to declared values.

MLA urges inclusion of eight lakes project

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

MLA KC Virendra Pappi met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru and appealed for inclusion of eight lakes from his constituency in the Bhadra Upper Bank Project. He said Kurubarahatti, Katihalli, Siddapur, Manangi, Hullur, Thimmannanayakana, Nandipur and Annehalu lakes should be added to the irrigation plan. He explained that the current DPR includes limited lakes and leaves out many villages in Chitradurga taluk.

He also noted that some nearby lakes are already part of other irrigation projects and cannot serve all farmers. The MLA said including these eight lakes will help improve groundwater levels and support drinking water supply for people and livestock. He requested the Chief Minister to take immediate action and ensure rural communities get

equal irrigation benefits under the project. Farmers and villagers have long demanded inclusion of these lakes for better water security in the region. According to the MLA, the project expansion will also reduce dependence on borewells and improve agriculture. He urged officials to consider the proposal positively and address the long pending demand of the constituency. The appeal highlights the need for balanced water distribution across all villages in Chitradurga taluk. He also stressed that filling these lakes will benefit both farmers and residents by improving irrigation and drinking water access. The Chief Minister received the memorandum and assured that the matter would be reviewed by the concerned departments soon. Local leaders and farmers welcomed the appeal and hoped for early approval of the irrigation expansion plan.

QUICK READ

Handloom workers asked to register for schemes

CH NEWS, Chitradurga

Handloom weavers in Chitradurga district have been asked to enroll under insurance schemes for financial support. Under the Nekara Samman Yojana for 2025-26 weavers must register in Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bhima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bhima Yojana. Eligible age is 18 to 50 years for PMJJBY and 18 to 70 years for PMSBY. They will also be considered for benefits in 2026-27. Applicants must submit insurance receipt bank passbook copy bank statement Aadhaar card and Weaver identity card at the Zilla Panchayat office Chitradurga before May 31. For details contact 08194-221426.

Grand Basava Jayanti celebration planned

CH NEWS , Tumakuru

Basava Jayanti celebrations will be held on May 3 at Honundike in Goluru Hobali of Tumakuru taluk, organized by Shree Basava Jayanti Acharana Samiti. The event will see the divine presence of several seers including Sri Shivratri Desikendra Swamiji of Vira Simhasana Sansthan Math, Sri Shivasiddheshwara Swamiji of Siddaganga Math, and Sri Immadi Basavaraja Swamiji of Gosala Channabasaveshwara Gadige Math. Rural MLA B. Suresh Gowda will officiate the programme. Ministers V. Somanna, former CM Basavaraja Bommai, and MLA G.B. Jyotiganesh will attend. Vishwas of Vishwas Jewellers will receive the Kayakashree award.

Free bladder checkup camp in Chitradurga on May 2

CH NEWS, Chitradurga

A free bladder checkup camp will be held on May 2 at Room No. 15 in Chitradurga District Hospital. It is organized with S.S. Narayana Health Hospital, Davangere. Urologist Dr. US Karthik will examine patients from 10 am to 1 pm. People having kidney stones, frequent urination, prostate trouble, infections, burning urine, blood in urine, male infertility, child urinary issues, or blockage can visit. The aim is early diagnosis and care. Contact 9535025743 or 7259759982 for details. Officials encourage citizens to use this free health service and improve awareness about urinary health problems in the community.

Magadi temple road project gets major boost

CH NEWS, MAGADI

Local leaders in Magadi taluk have announced development works worth crores for the road leading to Sri Basaveshwara Temple in Rlahalli village. Congress leader K. Krishnamurthy said the project includes road widening and concrete construction under the CMIDP scheme with an estimated cost of 3.50 crore rupees. He added that another nearby stretch of road will be developed at a cost of around 8 crore rupees to improve travel for devotees and residents. A guddalipuja was performed at the temple site to mark the start of the works, with MLA HC Balakrishna and local leaders participating in the ceremony. Officials said the project aims to ease narrow road issues near the temple and provide better access for visitors and the local community. Leaders also stated that development work is part of a larger plan to strengthen infrastructure in the region and support daily commuters. They urged people to ignore political criticism and support ongoing projects, saying development should remain the main focus of public discussion. Congress representatives said booth level meetings and public outreach programs will continue to strengthen the party and promote development activities. Party leaders including local committee members, trustees and community workers were present during the event and supported the initiative strongly. The program highlighted government funding efforts

Leaders urged focus on development over criticism, continued outreach and meetings, supported projects, and assured phased completion of funded infrastructure for public benefit

and assured that promised infrastructure projects would be completed in phases for public benefit. Residents expressed hope that the improved road connectivity to the temple will boost local economy, ease pilgrim movement, and ensure long term development of Rlahalli village while authorities promised timely completion of works with transparency and cooperation from all stakeholders involved in the project execution

Spiritual initiation program to unite devotees

GADAG

Ayyachar and Lingadeeksha programme will be held at Rambhapuri Branch Hiremath Gurukula in Narasapura village of Gadag district on May 1 at 5 am. It is organised by Panchavati Religious Gurukul Janakalyana Trust and Akhil Bharat Jangam Seva Samiti. The event is meant for Jangam Vatu initiation and spiritual learning. Dr Nadoja Annadaneshwar Swamiji of Mundaragi Annadanishwara Sansthan Math will grace the occasion. Several religious leaders including Dr Bunnikoppa Sujnanadeva Shivacharya Swamiji, Shivayogishwara Swamiji, Veereshwar Shivacharya Swamiji, Kadampura Veerabhadra Shivacharya, Abhinava Mudukeshwara Shivacharya, Gurusiddeswara Shivacharya, Chandrasekhara Deva, Rishikumar Swamiji and Shivakumar Sharan will participate. Dr Prabhaiah Dandavatimath, president of Panchavati Religious Gurukul Janakalyan Trust, and representatives of Akhil Bharat Jangam Seva Samiti will preside over the programme. Organisers said the event will promote spiritual values unity and service to society among devotees attending the programme. Veerabhadra Shivacharya of Hiremath said that such gatherings strengthen culture discipline and community bonding.

Chitradurga plans grand Mallamma Jayanti celebration

CH NEWS CHITRADURGA

Sub-Divisional Officer Dr. K. J. Kantharaju chaired a preliminary meeting in Chitradurga on Wednesday to plan the celebration of Shivasharane Mahasadhvi Hemareddy Mallamma Jayanti. The meeting was held at the Collectorate office hall. Officials decided to observe the Jayanti on May 10 at 11 am in a simple but meaningful way.

The main program will be held at the Collectorate office hall. Invitations will be printed and distributed as per tradition. During the meeting, Hemareddy Mallamma Samaj secretary D. T. Shivanandappa said that the society will also hold a separate program on May 25. It will include a grand procession and a felicitation ceremony for students who scored above 90 percent in SSLC and PUC examinations. He requested the district administration to support the event. Officials from the Kannada and Culture Department, education and sports departments, along with local leaders and representatives, attended the meeting and discussed arrangements for smooth conduct of the celebrations. Among those present were Assistant Director Dr. B. M. Gurunath, District Physical Education Officer Chidanandaswamy, City Councilor Puttappa, Samaj President Dr. L. Palakshaiah, former council president Sunitha Mallikarjuna, and leaders Mallikarjuna, Rabindranath, Nagabhushan and Sasidhara.

They welcomed the plan and stressed community participation.

Channapatna property sale deed loss notice issued

CH NEWS CHANNAPATNA

Public has been informed that Mr. M. N. Ramesh Babu, resident of Kuvempunagara in Channapatna taluk, has reported loss of his original registered sale deed related to a property in Malur village. The document, registered in 2013 at the Sub-Registrar Office, Channapatna, pertains to Survey No. 235/2 measuring 9 guntas. It was executed in favour of Sri Puttaswamy @ Puttaswamygowda by the original owners and relates to a bounded property in Malur village.The property is presently in the possession of Ramesh Babu since 2014 and is claimed to be free from encumbrances. He has reported that the original deed has been lost despite search efforts and has filed an online police complaint dated 29 April 2026. A lost report number 2178907/2026 has also been registered. Through this public notice, anyone having claims or objections regarding the property is requested to submit valid documents within seven days. If no claims are received within the stipulated period, it will be presumed that the property is free from disputes or encumbrances. For further communication, Advocate Shivaswamy S. has been authorised to receive representations at Ramanagara. We hereby advise the public to treat this notice as official information regarding the lost document and property claim process. The owner maintains possession of the said land and asserts lawful ownership based on earlier registration records. All concerned parties are requested to act promptly and submit any objections with supporting proof to avoid future disputes and legal complications. This notice is issued in good faith for public awareness and legal clarity regarding the property ownership status as per instructions of the client and advocate hereby issued.

Dr. Sudhakar noted below-normal rainfall, possible irregular showers, and urged officials to ensure drinking water preparedness and precautions

Minister Sudhakar urges safety measures for heatwave

CH NEWS CHIKKABALLAPURA

District In-charge Minister and Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar has urged people to take necessary precautions as the region faces intense heat and unusual weather conditions. He said the Meteorological Department has warned of rising temperatures and strong hot winds, and advised the public to strictly follow health department guidelines.

He was speaking after presiding over the quarterly KDP meeting held at Sir M. Visveswaraiah Hall of the Zilla Panchayat on Wednesday, where the progress of various government departments was reviewed.

Dr. Sudhakar said the state has received below-normal rainfall this year, though Chikkaballapura district may still receive irregular showers. He instructed officials to stay alert and take precautionary steps regardless of rainfall changes, especially regarding drinking water supply.

He said 313 borewells have been drilled under the mission plan and should be made functional soon by ensuring electricity connections so that water can be supplied to people without delay. He also informed that ₹1.5 crore has been released by the state government for emergency drinking water supply, and additional funds will be provided whenever required.

The Minister also raised concern about sewage water entering Amani Lake near Kandavara and Gopalakrishna areas of Chikkaballapura city. He said a full drainage system project worth ₹30 crore has been taken up to prevent pollution, and the tender process is currently underway.

He noted that drinking water shortage has already been reported in several villages—12 in February, 23 in March, and 31 at present. He warned that around 108 villages may face water problems in the coming days and directed officials to prepare accordingly. Temporary arrangements are being made with support from private pipeline owners.

Dr. Sudhakar emphasized that protecting public health during heatwave conditions is a priority and urged citizens to stay hydrated, avoid direct sun exposure, and follow safety advice issued by authorities.

The meeting was attended by MLAs, district officials, police and forest department heads, urban development authorities, and senior administrative officers who reviewed ongoing development and welfare programmes in the district.

MANDYA UNIVERSITY SHOWS STRONG STEADY PROGRESS GROWTH

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Mandya MLA P. Ravikumar Ganiga announced the inauguration of the new main entrance of Mandya University and the Nava Vasantha-2026 Mandya Yuva Sambraham programme.

He said the university has completed seven years and the new entrance has been built in a Roman style to improve its appearance. He also informed that a sports stadium is being completed with a special Chief Minister grant of two crore rupees and an indoor stadium is also coming up.

He said eight new universities have been established in the state and Mandya University is progressing well with focus on quality education.

He added that various programmes are being planned to make government colleges compete with private institutions and improve student opportunities.

About twenty thousand students from forty-six government colleges will take part in the event with transport and drinking water facilities arranged. The programme will include cultural and sports activities and prizes will be given to winners during the stage celebration on April 30.

University Vice Chancellor Prof. K. Shiva Chithappa, Cultural Minister Prof. G. V. Venkataraman, and Registrar M. P. Krishna Kumar attended the press conference.

Officials said the Nava Vasantha programme will create unity among students, encourage talent, and strengthen educational development across the district through large participation and organized activities. Authorities expressed confidence that the event will inspire youth and improve academic and cultural growth in Mandya district in coming years.

WOMEN RIGHTS REFORM

Ambedkar inspires equality call at Mandya College

CH NEWS, MANDYA

Retired professor Dr. Anand D. said that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar remains one of the greatest humanists in world history. He was speaking at Mandya Government College during a conference organized by the Ambedkar Vichar Vedike to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. He explained that Ambedkar played a historic role in drafting major social reforms, especially the Hindu Code Bill, which aimed to ensure equality and justice for women in society. The law introduced equal rights related to property, marriage, divorce and adoption, though it faced strong opposition before being passed in separate Acts later. He said Ambedkar worked for women's education and encouraged awareness of constitutional rights to fight caste discrimination and build a fair society. Speakers said students must study Ambedkar's life, values and philosophy and apply them in daily life to promote harmony and equality in society. Prof. Gururaj Prabhu said Ambedkar was a social reformer whose ideas continue to guide modern India toward unity and democratic values. College officials and faculty members also attended the event and emphasized the importance of equality, education and social justice for all citizens. The program highlighted Ambedkar's vision of a democratic society where every individual enjoys equal opportunity and dignity without discrimination. Organizers said that understanding his teachings is important for building a peaceful, inclusive and progressive nation for future generations. They added that Ambedkar's contributions to law, education and social reform continue to inspire students and scholars across the country today. The event concluded with a call to promote equality and justice by following Ambedkar's principles in both thought and action in society.

Wedding dispute turns violent in Kollegal town

CHAMARAJANAGAR

tA wedding in Kollegal town of Chamarajanagar district turned violent after a dispute over gold jewellery between the bride and groom's families The clash left six people injured in a knife attack

The wedding of Gulnaz Bhanu and Pattan Mudasir was planned after both families agreed but tensions rose when promised gold ornaments were not given

During a meeting arguments broke out and both sides attacked each other with knives and sticks

Those injured include relatives from both families such as Sameer Ayaz Shoaib Piroj Khan Abdul Waid and Abdul ArifThey were taken to hospital in Kollegal and later shifted for advanced treatment

Police said an attempt-to-murder case has been filed and CCTV footage is being checkedThe bride and groom gave conflicting statements about demands Security has been increased near both homesPolice have deployed staff in the area to maintain peace and continue investigation into the incident further inquiry ongoing.

QUICK READ

Kundapur bus crash near Trasi claims lives

Kundapur

Two people died and several students were injured when a college tourist bus collided with a tanker and a parked lorry near Trasi close to Maravanthe Beach on Tuesday afternoon. The bus carrying final year B Com students from Shankarghatta Rambhapuri College in Shivamogga district was returning from Murdeshwar when the driver lost control and hit roadside vehicles. The impact crushed the front of the bus killing a cleaner and a cook on board and leaving many others injured. Police reached the spot and shifted the injured students to nearby hospitals in Kundapur for treatment and began an investigation.

Darkness continues in Hunsur tribal village

Hunsur

Adivasi residents of Madyayanakatte village in Karimuddanahalli gram panchayat limits of Bilikere hobli have been living without electricity for three years after their Bhagya Jyoti connection was disconnected due to unpaid bills. They say officials had earlier promised restoration, but no action has followed. Villagers expressed sadness, saying they are deprived of basic lighting despite government schemes. They also raised complaints in gram sabha but allege negligence from the panchayat. Recently, they submitted a petition to CESCOM engineers, taluk officials, and welfare authorities seeking electricity restoration and proper streetlights. Residents also demand urgent action for basic safety and support immediately.

Chitradurga to host Massive BSY felicitation event

Vijayendra said grand felicitation planned for Yediyurappa, with senior BJP leaders coordinating arrangements and honoring his contributions

CHITRADURGA

BJP State President B.Y. Vijayendra announced that a grand felicitation program for former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will be held in Chitradurga on May 9. He said the event marks 50 years of Yediyurappa's political journey as a farmer leader and strong public representative.

Speaking at a party meeting in Hospet, Vijayendra said preparations are underway on a large scale and leaders from across Karnataka are expected to participate. He stated that nearly eight lakh to ten lakh people may attend the program from different districts and villages.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to be the chief guest at the event, and several religious leaders and prominent personalities will also share the stage. The main stage program will begin at 11 am, while preparatory events will start from the evening of May 8.

Vijayendra said the felicitation is being organised in a grand manner similar to major festival celebrations, aiming to honour Yediyurappa's long political contribution. He added that senior BJP leaders including Prabhakar Kore, Govind Karajol, Kota Srinivas Poojary and B. Sriramulu will lead the arrangements.

He also held meetings with party workers from Vijayanagar, Ballari and Koppal districts to ensure smooth organisation and large participation. Leaders and workers from various levels attended the meeting.

On development issues, Vijayendra said concerns such as the incomplete Madakari Nayak Theme Park in Chitradurga would be brought to the attention of Union leaders.

Regarding party leadership changes, he said the BJP will follow decisions taken by the national leader.

Farmers protest illegal soil mining in Chincholi

CHINCHOLI

Farmers protested delay in land possession since 2001 allotment, alleging illegal soil mining and demanding immediate survey completion and official handover of land

A protest was held in Chincholi taluk of Kalaburagi district under the leadership of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike Swabhimani Sena, demanding action against illegal soil mining and long-pending land distribution issues in Shadhipura village.

Protesters alleged that despite government allotment of land in Survey No. 126/1 and 126/3 to around 54 farmer families in 2001, physical possession has not been given even after 24 years due to delay in survey work. They said this administrative delay has allowed illegal soil mining activities to continue in the area.

Farmers accused soil mafia groups of exploiting the situation and illegally extracting government land resources without restriction. They demanded immediate survey completion and handover of land as per the original 2001 records.

They also urged authorities to ban transport companies allegedly involved in illegal soil movement and take strict action against officials who may be supporting such activities. Protesters demanded seizure of vehicles like Hitachi machines and lorries used in illegal transport and registration of FIR cases against those responsible.

Farmers further called for setting up a check post near the Telangana border to prevent illegal entry and transport of soil from the region.

Activists warned that if authorities fail to respond, they will escalate the matter to the Lokayukta within the coming days.

The protest saw participation from several farmers including taluk president Limbaji Chauhan, Shantappa, Parvathamma, Devibai, Shankar Pawar, Naresh Jadhav, Maruti Ganjagiri, Prem Rathod, Hemibai, Rukminibai, Chandu and many others.

Farmers said they will continue their agitation until justice is delivered and long-pending land rights are officially granted without further delay.

MLA urged timely work completion and laptop use; officials said digital tools will improve rural administration efficiency and transparency

Laptops distributed to revenue officials Yadgir programme

YADGIR

MLA Channareddy Patil Thunnur has said that all Revenue Department work, including e-office and e-payment services, should be done using computers for faster and transparent service. He was speaking after distributing around 17 laptops to Village Accountants (VAs) and Revenue Inspectors (RIs) at his public relations office on Tuesday. He said the Revenue Department is adopting technology as per instructions of Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda to make records and services smoother.

The MLA instructed officials to complete all works within the stipulated time without delay and use laptops effectively for daily government tasks. Tahsildar Suresh Ankalagi said laptops were given to improve efficiency of village administration officers and support faster data entry work. He added that better use of technology will help provide quick services to the public and improve overall revenue administration performance. Several staff members including Mallikarjuna Boodihal, Girish Rayakoti, Rajashekar Patil and others were present during the distribution programme. Officials said the initiative is aimed at improving digital governance in rural revenue offices and reducing delays in public services. MLA Thunnur also appealed to staff to ensure proper maintenance of the laptops and to use them only for official work to maintain transparency and efficiency in the department. We expect improved service delivery through this digital step also effectively. This will help citizens get revenue related work done quickly also effectively.

Legal awareness drive held in Yargol village

YADGIR

Senior Civil Judge Mariyappa inaugurated a legal awareness and assistance program held at Yargol Gram Panchayat office hall in Yadgir district under the District Legal Services Authority as part of the Justice Awareness Information and Transparency Initiative Scheme 2025. He said every citizen must know their legal rights and duties to live with dignity in society. He explained that the main aim of the NALSA scheme is to spread awareness about free legal aid services available to all people, especially the poor, women, children, and those from backward communities. He advised that anyone facing injustice.

VIJAYANAGARA BASAVESHWARA INSPIRES LECTURE ON EQUALITY IDEALS

VIJAYANAGARA

At a special lecture held in Kotturu of Vijayanagara district, speaker S.S. Patel said Basaveshwara was a philosopher, thinker, social reformer and social scientist. In a programme organised at Kottureshwara Degree College, the District Sharan Sahitya Parishad, Vijayanagara Global Lingayat Mahasabha and the college jointly hosted the event. Principal Dr. M. Ravikumar presided over the programme and said Basavanna's vachanas remain relevant for today's students and life values. Dr. K. Ravindranath said Basavanna did not belong to any one caste and his ideals are for all religions. Board member Bharamanagoudru Patil said Basavanna is remembered forever because he lived for society and among people. During the special lecture, S.S. Patel explained Basavanna's thoughts, social equality and human values in detail. Guest Rajendra Prasad Savajji spoke about Kayaka and Dasoha principles while Angadi Pampapati highlighted Basavanna's life path. Several governing body members, teachers, staff and students participated in the programme. The programme highlighted Basavanna's teachings of equality compassion and social harmony which inspired students and local participants to understand the importance of moral values in daily life. Speakers urged students to follow Basavanna's ideals and contribute to a just society through education and service. The event concluded with appreciation expressed by organisers and participants for the informative lecture and cultural discussion held at the college campus in Kotturu Vijayanagara. Organisers said such programmes help students learn about Karnataka's cultural heritage and the teachings of social reformers like Basaveshwara while strengthening unity.

Public cooperation urged for malaria control drive

VIJAYAPURA

Dr. Channappa Katti, Deputy Director, said public cooperation is essential for malaria control, prevention, and treatment during a health awareness rally held for Malaria Day under joint departments. He said Karnataka aims to eliminate malaria by 2027. Malaria is caused by Plasmodium parasite spread through bites of female Anopheles mosquitoes. Cases are seen throughout the year but increase during monsoon from June to October due to stagnant water in lakes, wells, pits, and low-lying areas, which helps mosquito breeding in rural and urban regions, so strong action is needed. He appealed to people to support health workers and follow preventive measures. District Health Officer Dr. Swathamkumar Gunari advised keeping water bodies clean, releasing fish in ponds, ensuring drainage flow, and chlorinating water sources. He said households should empty containers weekly, store water safely, and avoid mosquito breeding sites. People should use mosquito nets, and take precautions during evening hours. He stressed keeping surroundings clean and not allowing water stagnation. Officials also advised anyone with fever symptoms to visit nearby government hospitals for blood tests and early treatment. Health staff, ASHA workers, students, and officers took part in the awareness rally. Officials said awareness programs will continue across Vijayapura district to reduce mosquito breeding and protect public health. They urged citizens to report fever cases early and maintain cleanliness in surroundings for effective malaria control efforts together in the entire district.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANKIT VINAYAK KAMAT (old name), a resident of Flat no 2218, Tower 2, Prestige Tranquillity, Budigere Cross, Bommenahalli, Bengaluru - 560049 KARNATAKA, INDIA, have changed my name to ANKIT KAMAT (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 29-04-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANJUNATH NAGAPPA PRASADVI S/o NAGAPPA, R/o 16 Block 01, KMC College Library Behind, KMC Quarters, Vidyanagar, Hubli Vidyanagar, Hubli, Dharwad, Karnataka-580021, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANJAPPA NAGAPPA PRASADVI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HEMANT KUMAR JAMANLAL GULATI S/o LATE JAMANLAL GULATI R/o Flat 8C, Binny Crescent, No 16, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560046, have changed the name of my minor daughter ISHA GULATI alias ISHA HEMANT KUMAR GULATI aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as ESHA GULATI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client Mr. M. N. RAMESH BABU S/o M. T. Narayanaswamy,residing at: # 1907, 12th Cross Road, Kuvempunagara, Channapatna Taluk, Bangalore South District-562160. Our client has lost previous Sale deed in Channapatna Bus Stand the Original Registered Sale Deed bearing document No. CAN-1-07985/2012-13, date 27-02-2013 registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Channapatna, executed by Sri.Ramagirigowda S/o Late Girigowda his wife Parvathamma and their children Venkatalakshmamma and Shantamma in favour of Sri Puttaswamy @ Puttaswamygowda S/o Late Siddegowda, in respect of the All that piece and parcel of the Survey No. 235/2, measuring 00-09 Guntas Situated at: Malur Village, MalurHobli, Channapatna Taluk, Bangalore South District, bounded on: East By: Block 1, West By: Ia. hi. 1, North By: Road, South By: Block 1.The said property is in possession of Mr. M.N. RAMESH BABU since from 28-08-2014, he is the absolute owner and is absolutely free from any encumbrance whatsoever. My Client had lost the above mentioned & Inspite of several efforts the Original deeds not found and he has lodged the police complaint through online dated 29-04-2026, Lost Report No. 2178907/2026.If any person found or anyone having any claim or interest over the said property, he/she is requested to forward their claims along with the relevant documents to us within 07 days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 07 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property and if any One found the above deed kindly contact below mentioned Adress.

SHIVASWAMY. S.,Advocates,
Mahadevappa Building
1st Floor, 1st Room,
Opp. A.B.R. Tower, B.M. Road,
Ramanagara–562 159.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, S SKANDA KUMAR S/o H K SUBRAMANYA, R/o 322, 4th Main, 7th Cross, B D A Layout, Girinagara, B.B.M.P(South), Karnataka-560085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as S SKANDA KUMAR HOSAKERE.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE, AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.Mis.No. 550/2025

Between: Sri. Shashidhar S/o Narasappa, Aged about 29 years, R/at: Gundumgere Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.
PETITIONER
And: The Tahsildar, Doddaballapura Taluk.
RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13(3) and 14 of Registration of Births and Deaths act 1969, for seeking the death certificate of the grand father of petitioner by name **Sri.Chinnappa S/o Chikkasiddaiah** who died on 30.07.1980 at Gundumgere Village, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an Advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 29.5.2026 at 11 A.M./forenoon. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 22nd day of April 2026.

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Sri. Ravi.M. Advocate, Court Road, Doddaballapur-561 203.

Kalaburagi leaders demand apology from Pratap Simha

KALABURAGI

Social activist Prof. Sanjay Makal strongly condemned the statement made by former BJP MP Pratap Simha, in which he reportedly compared AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge to Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said the remarks were irresponsible and misleading, and demanded that Pratap Simha apologise immediately for distorting historical facts. Addressing a press conference at Patrika Bhawan in the city, he said Pratap Simha should first study history before making such comparisons.

He also criticised Pratap Simha, saying that despite his RSS background, he did not speak against the Razakar movement during earlier times and therefore had no moral authority to comment on leaders like Kharge. He further said that even former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani visited Pakistan in 2005 and paid respects at Muhammad Ali Jinnah's tomb, highlighting inconsistencies in political arguments. He said that in the liberation history of Hyderabad Karnataka (now Kalyana Karnataka), RSS leaders had little or no role, while Congress leaders.

MALARIA AWARENESS TRAINING

Gadag launches drive against mosquito diseases

GADAG

The District Survey Unit of Gadag, under the Government of Karnataka, organised an awareness program on World Malaria Day in collaboration with KHPIMS and the Health Department today. The program focused on controlling vector borne diseases like malaria, dengue, chikungunya and other mosquito spread infections affecting the district. Paramedical and nursing students were given training on identifying mosquito breeding sites and removing Aedes larvae from surroundings. Officials explained methods to prevent malaria spread, including control of Anopheles mosquitoes and maintaining clean water environments. A demonstration session was held showing self protection steps, dengue control measures and community level awareness activities. Health experts said India aims to become malaria free by 2030 and students should support this mission. They also encouraged weekly field surveys in hostels, hospitals and campus areas to locate mosquito breeding places. Participants were informed that teamwork between health departments and students is important for disease prevention. Senior doctors and district officials including Dr Venkatesh Rathod and Dr Rekha Sonavane attended the program. They stressed simple actions like cleaning water tanks, using protective measures and seeking early medical help. Officials requested public cooperation to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and maintain hygiene in all areas.

'Faster than expressways': PM hails UP's development model

Modi described the newly-inaugurated Ganga Expressway, India's largest greenfield corridor, as a new lifeline of development, opening doors of opportunity for farmers, industry, and youth

HARDOI (UP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the pace of developmental works in Uttar Pradesh under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Addressing a gathering during the inauguration of the Ganga Expressway, PM Modi said, "In Uttar Pradesh today, not only are expressways being built, but the overall development of the state is progressing at an even faster pace."

Describing the Ganga Expressway as the identity of a "New Uttar Pradesh," PM Modi stated that it will emerge as a new lifeline for the state's economy, connectivity, and employment.

In his address, the Prime Minister made it clear that the Ganga Expressway is not merely a road project, but the foundation of Uttar Pradesh's economic, social, and industrial transformation - where development is moving ahead even faster than the speed of the expressway itself.

The Prime Minister said that Uttar Pradesh has received the gift of this expressway with the blessings of Maa Ganga. People can now reach the Sangam in a few hours and visit Kashi for darshan. He expressed happiness that the expressway has been named after Maa Ganga, symbolising both the state's heritage and its development.

He noted that earlier, farmers' produce could not reach markets on time, but now through the expressway, products will reach markets faster, increasing farmers' income. Products such as sports goods from Meerut, handloom from Hardoi, leather from Unnao, and amla from Pratapgarh will gain better market access.

The expressway will attract industries across 12 districts and create employment opportunities for youth. Built within just five years, work has already begun on plans to extend it beyond Meerut up to Haridwar. It will also be connected with other expressways to create a comprehensive network.

The Prime Minister said that infrastructure expansion in Uttar Pradesh is happening rapidly today. There has been unprecedented progress in expressways, airports, industrial corridors, and defense manufacturing. A total of 21 airports are being developed in the state, including 5 international airports.

Major projects like the BrahMos missile are giving a new identity to the state's industrial strength. Once labeled a "BIMARU" state, Uttar Pradesh is now moving rapidly toward becoming a one-trillion-dollar economy. With new opportunities in investment, industry, and employment, the state's image has transformed, and it has become a major destination for investors.

The Prime Minister said, "No one could not have even imagined industrial corridors during earlier governments. Earlier there was migration; today investor summits are being held. Of all mobile phones manufactured in India, more than half are produced in Uttar Pradesh alone. Uttar Pradesh has changed the old style of politics. This is the sacred land of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna. Previous governments had made crime and lawlessness the identity of the state. Those who have lost power are now trying again to divide UP and society."

He alleged that they are anti-women and had opposed the Nari Shakti Vandan Act. He added that these opposition parties are unhappy with UP's increasing representation, and after reaching Parliament with people's votes, they stand with those who criticize Uttar Pradesh.

In-short

* The 594-km Ganga Expressway connects Meerut to Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh.
* The six-lane expressway (expandable to eight) allows speeds up to 120 km/h, cutting travel time to around 6 hours.
* Built at a cost of about ₹36,000 crore, it is one of India's largest greenfield infrastructure projects.
* The project is expected to boost connectivity, logistics, and economic growth across multiple districts in the state.

GST superintendent, consultant arrested in ₹20 lakh bribery sting

RAJKOT

The Gujarat Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested a Central GST (CGST) superintendent and a tax consultant after catching them red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹20 lakh. The operation, conducted at the Creative Complex near Rajkot's ST bus station, is the latest in a string of high-profile corruption crackdowns within the tax department.

The accused, identified as 43-year-old Superintendent Mukesh Kumar and 33-year-old consultant Akash Kaloliya, allegedly targeted a local citizen who was facing proceedings for non-payment of GST and the issuance of false invoices. According to investigators, Kumar initially demanded ₹25 lakh to "settle" the matter and prevent a major legal case. After negotiations, the sum was lowered to ₹20 lakh, with Kaloliya acting as the middleman.

The Gujarat Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested a CGST superintendent and a consultant for accepting a twenty lakh rupee bribe

Key Details of the ACB Trap:

- The Demand: ₹25 lakh (negotiated down to ₹20 lakh).
- The Location: Creative Complex, Rajkot.
- The Outcome: Both suspects were caught during the cash exchange, the full ₹20 lakh was recovered on the spot.

The ACB noted that this arrest follows several similar incidents earlier this year. In February, another Rajkot CGST officer was caught taking a ₹5,000 bribe, and earlier this month, two officials in Nadiad were arrested in a massive ₹55 lakh bribery case involving seized transport vehicles.

Following the arrests, the ACB urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any demands for illegal gratification. Officials emphasized that all complaints are handled with strict confidentiality as they continue to investigate whether these individuals are part of a wider network of corruption within the regional tax administration.

Kerala faces tough times after recent elections

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Just weeks after citizens cast their votes, life in Kerala has taken a difficult turn. The promises of steady power and cheap goods are fading fast as residents face new electricity cuts and a sudden jump in milk prices.

Recently the state began thirty-minute power cuts for the first time in years. This change is a shock to many, as the government spent months campaigning on the promise of a reliable energy supply. However, the lights are now flickering out, leaving families and small businesses struggling to adjust to the new daily schedule.

The bad news continues in the kitchen. Milma, the state's massive dairy cooperative, has decided to raise the price of milk. A single liter will soon jump from 52 to 56 rupees. While dairy officials say this increase is necessary to help ten lakh farmers cover rising costs, the timing has upset many locals. Because election rules are still in place, the group must now ask the Election Commission for permission to finalize the hike.

These twin blows have sparked heated debates across the state. During the election, leaders pointed to stable prices and constant power as proof of their success. Now, with the final results coming soon, the mood has shifted from hope to frustration. For the average family in Kerala, the "post-poll reality" feels much heavier than the campaign promises led them to believe.

AI CEO hails 'hub-and-spoke' model as aviation game-changer

NEW DELHI

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson threw his full weight behind the government's new "hub-and-spoke" aviation strategy, calling it a "transformative step" that will finally position India as a global transit powerhouse.

Coinciding with the announcement, the Tata-owned carrier revealed plans to launch new international routes from Varanasi, signaling a major push to connect Tier-2 cities directly to the world.

The hub-and-spoke model marks a pivot from India being a mere "end destination" to becoming a "global transit ecosystem." Currently, about 35% of international passengers from India transit through foreign hubs like Dubai, Singapore, or London. The government's goal is to recapture that traffic by turning major domestic airports into world-class transit points.

Campbell Wilson praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, noting that the development of a comprehensive aviation ecosystem is vital for India's economic growth. Air India's Group Head, P. Balaji, added that the strategy would significantly expand India's global footprint beyond the traditional big cities.

The move follows high-level meetings led by Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu to ensure "operational readiness" at Delhi Airport. By streamlining security, baggage handling, and transit times, the government hopes to make Indian hubs the preferred choice for both domestic travelers and international passengers flying between the East and West.

Key highlights of expansion

- Varanasi International Push: Air India will use Varanasi as a key "spoke," funneling passengers from eastern Uttar Pradesh and neighboring regions into larger international networks.
- Infrastructure Synergy: The model will link airports developed under the UDAN scheme (Tier-2 and Tier-3) to major "hubs" like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.
- Global Competitiveness: The initiative aims to make international travel more accessible and affordable for travelers outside of major metro areas.

Central forces clash with protesters in Kolkata

KOLKATA

Tensions reached a breaking point in South Kolkata as central security forces used batons to disperse angry protesters. The clash broke out in the Bhabanipur area, where a high-profile election battle is currently unfolding between local political giants.

The trouble began near the Chief Minister's home when a large group of Trinamool Congress activists gathered to protest against Suvendu Adhikari, the Leader of the Opposition. As Adhikari arrived at a local building, the crowd surrounded him, shouting slogans and moving toward his team.

The situation quickly turned heated as both sides exchanged loud shouts, creating a chaotic scene that threatened to spiral out of control. To restore order and ensure safety, the central forces moved in to push the crowd back.

Adhikari claimed the "hooliganism" would only help him win by a larger margin, while his opponents accused him of arriving at the scene specifically to provoke peaceful voters. A formal complaint has already been filed with election officials. Meanwhile, in nearby Howrah, police arrested a man carrying a sharp weapon after reports surfaced that he was threatening residents.

These incidents highlight the intense pressure surrounding this election. While political leaders trade accusations of instigation and threats, the heavy presence of security forces remains the only thing keeping the peace.

As polling continues, the atmosphere in the city remains incredibly thin, with residents hoping for a quiet end to a very loud and aggressive campaign season. The final results remain the only thing on everyone's mind.

Human rights groups asked to probe arrests

NEW DELHI

A formal complaint was filed with national human rights and child protection groups over the alleged illegal detention of over 1,000 people in Noida.

The plea claims that Uttar Pradesh Police committed serious constitutional violations following recent protests by factory workers and migrant laborers who were demanding better monthly wages.

Advocate Subhash Chandran K.R. moved the petition after reports surfaced that nearly 350 juveniles were among those swept up in a massive police crackdown. The workers had been protesting since early April, seeking an increase in their small salaries to keep up with the rising costs of food and housing.

While some violence occurred during the protests, the complaint argues that the police response was "excessive and indiscriminate," targeting innocent bystanders, shoppers, and children.

The petition alleges that many workers were snatched directly from their factories or workplaces without their families being informed.

Furthermore, it claims that many were held longer than the legal 24-hour limit without seeing a judge, a direct violation of constitutional rights.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tenders through KPP Portal for appointment of Project Management Consultants (PMC) for the work of Development of Sites & Services Scheme at Lingapura, Suryanagar phase-2, Bengaluru District.

Notification No: KHB/CE/PMC/KHB/2026-27/SE0380 Date: 28.04.2026

Last date for submission of bid is on 12.05.2026 upto 4.00 PM.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/424/AKAR/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕೆ. ಜಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
(ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು)
E-Mail:- ka.bengaluru.urban.dudc@gmail.com Phone No: 08022211372/352

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಜಿನಕೋ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ ಹಂತ-04/01/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28-04-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಮತ್ತು ಕೋನಪ್ಪನ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರ ಪುರಸಭೆ ಮತ್ತು ಹುಣಸಮಾರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಮೃತ್ ನಗರೋತ್ಥಾನ ಹಂತ 4.0 ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಮೊಹರಾದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ

1) Indent Number: DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT55460/CALL-2. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ(ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): ರೂ.63.18. ವರ್ಗ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ.
2) DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT55460/CALL-4. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ(ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): ರೂ.75.56. ವರ್ಗ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ.
3) DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT55460/CALL-3. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ(ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): ರೂ.255.41. ವರ್ಗ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ.

1. ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ/ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
2. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು KPP Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
3. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08022211372 / 352 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ka.bengaluru.urban.dudc@gmail.com

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

DIPR/CP/RO413/AAPL/2026-27

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ –561203
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_doddaballapur@yahoo.com
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.doddaballapurcity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ನಸದೊ/ತಾಂ.ವಿ/ಟಿ.ಎನ್.ನಂ.01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.04.2026

"ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ"
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆರವರು 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅಮೃತ್–2.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

(1) DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57523, (2) DMA/2026-27/OW/ WORK_INDENT57524, (3) DMA/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT57726, (4) DMA/2026-27/SE7635, (5) DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57741

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.05.2026ರ 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ,** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.05.2026ರ 17.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆದು ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಸಹಿ/- ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/416/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

ಪುರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
ಸಂತೆ ಬೀದಿ ವೃತ್ತ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಅಂಚೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560090. ದೂ: 080–28395098
Website : www.chikkabanavaratown.mrc.gov.in, Email: ka.chikkabanavara.tmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಪು.ಕಾ.ಚಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾ.ಶಾ/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ 2026–27ನೇ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಮುಕ್ತನಿಧಿ, ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು, 24.10 ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಉಳಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. 2) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **07.05.2026.** 3) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **14.05.2026** ರಂದು 4) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಿಳಿಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪುರಸಭೆ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/414/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru.

No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/03/2026-27 Date: 29-04-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Divison invites **Item Rate** tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table from e-registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation/BWSSB/KUSWS&B/PRED/PWD/Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. Organization.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Providing Emergency Relief Task Force team to Vasanth Nagar Sub Division Control Room for the year 2026-27 (for 4 Months). **Approx. value of work: Rs.6.00 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 15,000/-. Tender Processing Fee (in Rs.):** As per E-Proc portal. **Eligibility of Contractor:** Class III and above. **Period of Completion:** 4 Months. **Remarks (Reserved Category):** General Category.
2	Providing Emergency Relief Task Force team to Shivaji Nagar Sub Division Control Room for the year 2026-27 (for 4 Months). **Approx. value of work: Rs.6.00 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 15,000/-. Tender Processing Fee (in Rs.):** As per E-Proc portal. **Eligibility of Contractor:** Class III and above. **Period of Completion:** 4 Months. **Remarks (Reserved Category):** General Category.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal of GOK https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in **from 02.05.2026 onwards.** (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document: **11.05.2026 upto 4.00 p.m.** (3) Date of Opening of Tenders : **12.05.2026 by 4.30 p.m.** if possible or Next work day.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division,
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

QUICK READ

HP High Court upholds charges in blackmail case

Shimla

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has upheld charges against a woman accused in a blackmail and extortion case, ruling that the Una court has jurisdiction. The court dismissed her petition challenging earlier charges of conspiracy, extortion, and intimidation. Officials said the case involved incidents across different states, but part of the alleged crime, including money transfers, occurred in Himachal Pradesh. The court noted that such linked offences can be tried where any part of the crime took place. Finding enough evidence, it allowed the trial to continue. The ruling clarifies legal jurisdiction in cases involving crimes across multiple locations.

Vande Bharat express boosts Jammu Tawi connectivity

Srinagar

The Vande Bharat Express has now been extended to Jammu Tawi, offering a major boost to passenger travel. Northern Railway's Chief Area Manager, Kapil Sharma, announced that the train's capacity has been increased from 8 to 20 coaches, a 2.5-fold expansion. The extension, set to be inaugurated on April 30, will help ease travel for passengers, especially students, and reduce waiting times. Designed for all-weather conditions, the train promises safe, fast, and comfortable journeys, with enhanced security and eco-friendly features like CCTV and regenerative braking. This move aims to support tourism and better connect Jammu with Kashmir.

NEW NTA CHIEF PROMISES 'ZERO-ERROR' EXAM SYSTEM

To make things easier for students, exam results will now be linked directly to DigiLocker for fast, verified access'

NEW DELHI

The new leader of India's National Testing Agency (NTA), Abhishek Singh, has launched a major plan to fix national exams. With 10 million students preparing for life-changing tests like NEET and JEE this summer, Singh is promising a "zero-error" system. He wants to ensure that every student has a fair chance to succeed without worrying about cheating or technical glitches.

Singh, an expert in digital technology, is bringing a high-tech approach to the agency. To make things easier for students, exam results will now be linked directly to DigiLocker for fast, verified access. He is also using Artificial Intelligence to listen to student complaints in real-time. "Our commitment is to ensure the process is so secure and fair that even those who are unsuccessful understand why," Singh explained during a recent interview.

One of the biggest changes is focused on reducing student stress. The NTA is working

hard to place exam centers closer to students' homes so they don't have to travel long distances. Singh acknowledged the intense pressure of exams like NEET, where millions compete for very few medical seats. He believes that total transparency is the only way to keep the trust of parents and candidates.

By working closely with local police and state governments, the NTA aims to create a "glitch-free" cycle for 2026. From secure digital applications to protected question papers, the goal is simple, a clean, honest exam season that respects the hard work of India's youth.

Pune police order 3 Americans to exit India

Three Americans must leave India by May 10 after Pune police caught them distributing religious pamphlets and preaching, violating strict tourist visa laws against proselytization

PUNE

Three American citizens have been ordered to leave India by May 10 after Pune City Police found them allegedly engaging in religious preaching while on tourist visas. The individuals identified as James Ritchie Hudson (65), Frantz Thomas (53), and Garry Rosemond Jean (64), were served a formal "Leave India Notice" for violating strict immigration laws that prohibit proselytization on a tourist visa.

The incident unfolded in the Shukrawar Peth area. According to police reports, a local cab driver became suspicious when the trio approached him and handed him pamphlets printed in English, Hindi, and Marathi titled "Why is the world so divided?" The driver alleged that the men attempted to persuade him regarding their religious beliefs, asserting the superiority of Christianity. He immediately alerted nearby police personnel who were deployed for a local rally.

Upon questioning and a search of their belongings at the local police station, authorities recovered a large quantity of religious literature. The Foreigners Registration Office (FRO) confirmed the violation, noting that "prachar" (preaching) is strictly forbidden for those entering the country on e-Tourist visas.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (FRO) Sandeep Bhajibhakare emphasized that the action was taken strictly in accordance with visa regulations. Police are also investigating whether any local organizations assisted the trio in their activities. Failure to leave the country by the stipulated date could lead to formal prosecution and deportation.

Key details of notice

- **Individuals Involved:** Three US nationals (ages 53, 64, and 65).
- **Deadline to Exit:** May 10, 2026.
- **Legal Grounds:** Violation of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, which mandates that tourists must not engage in missionary or religious activities.
- **Current Status:** The individuals, who had been staying at a hotel in Pimpri-Chinchwad, are now being monitored to ensure they comply with the departure deadline.

Massive fire hits Kota's City Mall; No casualties

KOTA

A huge fire broke out on the second floor of Kota's City Mall, leading to a swift response from authorities. Twelve fire trucks were dispatched to tackle the blaze, which was largely controlled within hours. Kota Police confirmed that the mall had not opened yet, reducing the risk of casualties. Fire Officer Amjad Khan reported that the fire had been mostly extinguished, though efforts to clear the remaining smoke continued. Meanwhile, Kota's SP Tejaswini Gautam assured that rescue teams were ensuring no one was trapped inside. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Ladakh will host the sacred Piprahwa relics this May, a historic milestone aimed at strengthening the region's cultural identity

Sacred relics to strengthen Ladakh's cultural identity

LEH

Ladakh is preparing for a historic civilizational milestone this May as it welcomes the sacred Piprahwa relics for a public exposition.

These holy remains of the Buddha, linked to the Shakya lineage, will be widely accessible in the region for the first time. Experts believe this event will act as a symbolic anchor, helping Ladakh preserve its unique social fabric amidst rapid modernization.

The arrival of the relics is expected to do more than just offer a moment of prayer. It is set to bring together villages, youth groups, and monasteries, fostering a deep sense of community unity. In a region where tourism and global influences are changing traditional life, this shared spiritual experience offers a way for older generations to pass down cultural values to the youth. National Buddhist

leaders from across India are expected to converge in Leh, turning the high-altitude desert into a vibrant hub of dialogue and peace.

Beyond spirituality, the exposition promises a significant boost to the local economy. Religious tourism often creates a surge in demand for local guides, artisans, and hospitality workers. It also provides a global stage for traditional Ladakhi crafts, such as thangka painting and handwoven textiles. Improvements in infrastructure made for the event will leave a lasting benefit for residents long after the pilgrims return home.

Ultimately, the event positions Ladakh as a central node in global Buddhism. By hosting these revered relics, India reinforces its cultural ties with nations like Japan, Thailand, and South Korea, proving that ancient traditions remain a powerful force for modern diplomacy and social resilience.

Trade deal with NZ worries apple farmers

SHIMLA

A new trade deal between India and New Zealand has sparked deep fear among apple growers in Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, and Uttarakhand.

The agreement, signed this week, cuts the tax on imported apples in half, dropping it from 50% to 25%. Local farmers worry this will flood the market with cheaper fruit, ruining their livelihoods.

Under the new rules, India will allow thousands of tons of New Zealand apples to enter the country between April and August. This timing is a major concern because it overlaps with when Indian farmers sell their own harvest. Leaders from the Congress party have flagged the issue, noting that local growers already struggle with high costs and unpredictable weather. They argue that competing with New Zealand, a global leader in apple farming, is an unfair fight for Indian families who have much smaller farms. In Himachal Pradesh alone, over two lakh families depend on apples for their income. While the government has set a minimum price for imports to protect locals, many feel it isn't enough.

Rising heat keeps tourists away from Taj

AGRA

The soaring temperatures across North India have turned the marble steps of the Taj Mahal into a scorching furnace, causing a sharp drop in tourist numbers. Usually packed with thousands of visitors, the world-famous monument saw unusually thin crowds as a brutal heatwave took hold of the region.

Local officials confirmed that the extreme weather has scared away both domestic and international travelers. Those who did brave the sun, like tourist Anjali Singh, described the experience as a struggle. "We finished our entire tour in just an hour because it was too hot for the children," she said, highlighting the difficulties families are facing. With temperatures hitting between 40 and 46 degrees Celsius in many parts of the country, simply standing outdoors has become a health risk.

In response to the dangerous conditions, the India Meteorological Department has issued several alerts. In nearby Prayagraj, authorities have already shortened school hours and installed water ATMs to keep the public hydrated. Experts are urging anyone visiting outdoor sites to wear light cotton clothing and keep their heads covered to avoid heatstroke.

The heatwave is expected to continue for several days, affecting states from Punjab to Bihar.

BJP reveals candidates for upcoming council polls

NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) officially named its candidates for the upcoming Legislative Council by-elections in Bihar and Maharashtra. The party leadership approved the list just a day before the deadline, signaling a strategic move to secure its presence in the upper houses of both states.

In Bihar, the party has placed its trust in Surya Kumar Sharma, popularly known as Arvind Sharma, to contest the bypoll. Meanwhile, in Maharashtra, the BJP has nominated Dr. Pradnya Rajeev Satav for their respective vacant seat. These by-elections are seen as crucial tests of local strength before larger regional contests later this year. In addition to the by-elections, the ruling party released five more names for the regular biennial elections in Maharashtra.

Court sends Dawood aide Dola to Mumbai custody

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has granted the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) a two-day transit remand for Mohammad Salim Dola, a suspected high-level drug handler.

Dola, reportedly a close associate of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, was recently brought back from Turkey. He will now be transported to Mumbai to face charges related to a major drug syndicate.

The NCB produced Dola before a duty magistrate, requesting time to move him across state lines. Federal prosecutors argued that his arrest is tied to a 2023 investigation into international narcotics smuggling. Although his lawyers fought the request, claiming Dola had been living abroad since 2020 and could not be linked to the recent case, the court ruled in favor of the agency. Officials stated that an active warrant from a Mumbai court justified the arrest and transfer.

In a separate but significant ruling at the same court, judges found enough evidence to proceed with money laundering charges against Bilquies Shah, the wife of separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) alleges she was involved in illegal "hawala" transactions used to fund terror activities.

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI.
Ph.: 08472/ 278675, Fax. : 08472 / 260776 E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/TS-01/CF-UGD/DC-65/Z-2/Recall-3/2026-27 Date: 29.04.2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. /2026-27
DATE: 29.04.2026

1) Name of Work: DMA/2025-26/SE6269/CALL-3 2025-26 Corporation Fund (01) Operation and Maintenance (O & M) for Mechanized cleaning of sewer lines and Machine hole chambers works. 2) Head of Account: 2025-26 Corporation Fund (01) Operation and Maintenance (O & M) for Mechanized cleaning of sewer lines and Machine hole chambers works. 3) Tender Amount: **Tender Amount Mini Rs. 2,53,00,000.00,** 4) Eligibility of Contractor: As per Bid Document. 5) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time: **14.05.2026 Up to 11:00am**, 6) Last Date for Bid Submission: **15.05.2026 Up to 4:30pm**, 7) Tender opening Date: **16.05.2026 Up to 4:35pm**, 8) Tender Financial Bid opening Date: **18.05.2026 Up to 11.30am**, 9) Cost of Tender Schedule: Tender Fee As Per e-portal EMD Mini / Max Rs. 3,57,200.00, 10) Contact Address & Mobile No: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 9620341599 & 9448119141, 11) Web Site: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/85/KSMC&A/2026-27

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CE Division Mysore

NO:KST:EEM:JE: 53 :2026-27 Date: 28-04-2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 03/2026-27

Item wise tenders are invited vide tender notification no. 03/2026-27 work mentioned below as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement at KTTP Ordinance at 1999, and Rules 2000 from the appropriate class of Civil Contractors in KPWD and CPWD as mentioned below through E-procurement. The contractors/firms will have to upload all required information, documents and rates etc., in the website only i.e., **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** No Physical documents will be accepted.

Sl. no	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (in lakhs)	E.M.D (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Heavy Vehicle Drivers Training Institute for RTO at Nagamangala (2ND Call)	Rs.500.00	Rs.6,26,740.00

1.Last date for Receipt of tenders: **08-05-2026. 2.**Interested Bidders can login to the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for details on or after **29-04-2026. 3.** Any other information required can be had from the Office of The Executive Engineer, KSRTC, Nelson Mandella Road, Bannimantapa, Mysuru during working hours, Tel.Phone No:0821-2498828

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, KSRTC : CE Division : Mysuru

DIPR/CP/411/NR/2026-27

Nadda to inaugurate 10th Public Health Summit

CHANDIGARH

The 10th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices in Public Health will be held in Chandigarh from April 30 to May 1, 2026. Union Health Minister JP Nadda will inaugurate the event, joined by Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini and Health Minister Arti Singh Rao. The summit will bring together health officials from various States and Union Territories, showcasing successful public health practices. It aims to promote cross-learning and the replication of impactful health models. Since 2013, the summit has been a platform for sharing innovations that improve healthcare outcomes across India.

FRUIT ICE FOR FELINES

Nahargarh Zoo offers 'fruit ice cream' to cool animals

JAIPUR

As a blistering heatwave grips Rajasthan, the staff at Nahargarh Biological Park have turned into "summer caretakers" to keep their wild residents safe.

From jumbo coolers to specialized diets, the park has implemented a rigorous cooling protocol to protect tigers, lions, and bears from the scorching sun.

The park's veterinary team, led by Dr. Arvind Mathur, has introduced a summer-friendly menu to keep animals hydrated. Sloth bears and Himalayan bears

are being treated to cold milk and "fruit ice cream," while herbivores like hippos and deer are munching on watermelons, cucumbers, and bitter gourds. To help them fight the physical stress of the heat, the animals are also receiving glucose-water, vitamins, and anti-stress medications.

Beyond managing the heat, the park is celebrating a successful season of wildlife breeding. Following the birth of three cubs to the tigress Rani, the administration is currently caring for two more cubs. Nahargarh is also gaining national recognition for its wolf breeding program, marking it as a leader in wildlife conservation even under challenging climate conditions.

Modifications made

- Morning Baths: Tigers and leopards are bathed every morning before being released into their enclosures.
- Cooling Tech: Night shelters are now equipped with jumbo coolers, while display areas use water sprinklers and "rain guns" to lower the temperature.
- Sun Protection: Green nets have been draped over shelters to block direct sunlight and create a shaded sanctuary.

QUICK READ

Drone diplomacy wins Ukraine valuable allies

KYIV

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has leveraged Ukraine's expertise in drone warfare into a series of successful diplomatic deals during visits to the Middle East and Europe, showcasing how Kyiv is using military prowess to boost its diplomatic clout. Since Russia's invasion in 2022, Zelenskiy has sought to strengthen Kyiv's alliances, both with Western allies and with countries of the "global south", to restrict Russia's diplomatic sway. The Iran war has confirmed how central drones are to modern warfare and handed Zelenskiy a diplomatic trump card at a time when U.S. support for Kyiv appears unreliable, analysts say.

SC examines Trump's move against Haitian

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court examines on Wednesday moves by President Donald Trump's administration to strip humanitarian protections from hundreds of thousands of Haitian and Syrian immigrants, part of his signature immigration crackdown. The justices will hear arguments in the administration's appeals of rulings by federal judges in New York and Washington, D.C., halting its actions to terminate Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, previously provided by the U.S. government to more than 350,000 people from Haiti and 6,100 from Syria.

Greece says it agreed with Qatar to deepen trade

ATHENS

Greece said on Wednesday it had agreed with Qatar to bolster cooperation in areas including trade, energy and defence, extending a deal first struck in 2024. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and □Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani discussed bilateral ties and investment opportunities in Greek infrastructure, energy and data centres, Mitsotakis' office said. There are also other areas of cooperation we have been discussing lately such as □defence cooperation," Al Thani said in translated remarks after meeting Mitsotakis in Athens. "Taking into consideration the events taking place around the □world, I believe it is very important to strengthen these ties as well.

Trump tells aides to prepare for extended blockade of Iran

Trump has intensified pressure on Iran to agree to a deal amid ongoing conflict, warning Tehran to act quickly or face further economic consequences

WASNINGTON

His remarks come as reports suggest Washington is preparing to extend its blockade of Iranian ports, signaling a tougher stance following stalled negotiations.

In a post on Truth Social, President Donald Trump urged Iran to "get smart soon" and finalize an agreement, expressing frustration over the lack of progress in diplomatic efforts. Trump reiterated his long-standing position that Iran must not acquire nuclear weapons and indicated that Tehran has failed to respond effectively to negotiation opportunities.The statement follows reports from The Wall Street Journal that the U.S. administration is considering extending its blockade of Iran's ports. According to officials cited in the report, Trump has instructed his aides to prepare for a prolonged economic squeeze aimed at forcing Iran to concede. The strategy is seen as an alternative to more aggressive actions such as renewed military strikes or disengagement from the conflict, both of which carry significant risks.Officials believe that maintaining pressure on Iran's economy, particularly its oil exports, could push the country toward a compromise. However, Trump did not provide specific details about what a potential "nonnuclear deal" would include, leaving uncertainty about the terms Washington expects Tehran to accept.Iran, on the other hand, continues to demand recognition of its right to enrich uranium for civilian purposes. The country maintains that its nuclear program is peaceful, despite international concerns. Reports indicate that Iran currently possesses approximately 440 kilograms of uranium enriched to 60 percent, a level that, if further refined, could potentially be used to develop multiple nuclear weapons.The gap between U.S. demands and Iran's position remains a major obstacle to reaching an agreement. As tensions persist, the proposed extension of the blockade underscores Washington's reliance on economic pressure to achieve its objectives, while the prospects for a diplomatic breakthrough remain uncertain.

Power shift in Iran hardens stance amid war, diplomacy

DUBAI

The sudden vacuum at the top has disrupted decades of centralized authority, potentially influencing Tehran's diplomatic posture as it considers renewed negotiations with Washington

Two months into an intense conflict involving the United States and Israel, Iran is witnessing a historic transformation in its leadership structure following the death of its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The sudden vacuum at the top has disrupted decades of centralized authority, potentially influencing Tehran's diplomatic posture as it considers renewed negotiations with Washington.

Since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979, Iran's political system has revolved around a single, all-powerful Supreme Leader who held ultimate authority over both political and military decisions.

However, the killing of Khamenei on the first day of the ongoing war has marked a significant departure from this model. His son, Mojtaba Khamenei, has since been elevated, but reports suggest that his authority is limited compared to his predecessor.

According to sources familiar with internal developments, Mojtaba Khamenei's role appears largely symbolic, serving to endorse decisions made by powerful military figures rather than independently directing policy. This shift has effectively transferred significant influence to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which now plays a dominant role in both military strategy and political decision-making.

The wartime environment has further consolidated power within a smaller, more hardline circle consisting of the IRGC, the Supreme National Security Council and the Supreme Leader's office. Analysts believe this concentration of authority has led to a tougher stance from Tehran, particularly in its approach to negotiations with the US.

A senior Pakistani official involved in mediating talks between the two nations highlighted the challenges posed by the current leadership structure. The absence of a clear, centralized command has reportedly slowed Iran's decision-making process, with responses to diplomatic proposals sometimes taking several days. Experts suggest that while internal coordination remains complex, the primary obstacle to any agreement lies in the significant differences between US expectations and the terms Iran's hardline factions are willing to accept.

KING CHARLES VISITS 9/11 MEMORIAL IN NYC

LONDON

Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla arrived in New York on Wednesday as part of a four-day state visit to the United States, with a key focus on honoring the victims of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks. The visit comes amid ongoing diplomatic engagements and geopolitical tensions involving the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

The royal couple's arrival in New York follows a busy schedule in Washington, D.C., where King Charles addressed the U.S. Congress and held private discussions with U.S. President Donald Trump. Their meeting reportedly took place against the backdrop of rising tensions between the two allies over the ongoing conflict involving Iran. During a White House state dinner, President Trump suggested that King Charles had expressed support for ending Iran's nuclear program. However, this claim has not been officially confirmed, and both Downing Street and Buckingham Palace have yet to respond to inquiries.

In New York, King Charles and Queen Camilla are set to participate in a solemn ceremony at the 9/11 Memorial in Lower Manhattan. The memorial stands at the site where the twin towers of the World Trade Center were destroyed in the September 11 attacks carried out by al-Qaeda terrorists, resulting in the deaths of nearly 2,800 people. The ceremony is expected to pay tribute to the victims and reflect on the enduring global impact of the tragedy.

During the event, King Charles is also scheduled to meet New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani, highlighting the diplomatic and symbolic importance of the visit. Following the memorial ceremony, the king will travel to Harlem to visit a grassroots community organization focused on sustainable urban farming. The initiative aims to address food insecurity by promoting local food production and community engagement.

The visit underscores the continued importance of U.S.-UK relations, blending remembrance with discussions on global challenges, even as political sensitivities remain in focus.

Elderly gunman opens fire in Athens

Athens

An 89-year-old man has been arrested in Greece after carrying out two shooting incidents in Athens that left five people injured. Authorities say the suspect acted out of frustration with public services, highlighting concerns over systemic inefficiencies and security gaps.The incident unfolded on Tuesday when the elderly gunman first targeted a branch of Greece's EFKA social security agency in Athens. Armed with a shotgun, he opened fire inside the premises, injuring an employee in the leg. Following the initial attack, the suspect fled the scene and took a taxi to a nearby court building, where he fired multiple shots, wounding four female court clerks. All injuries reported were non-life-threatening.

China promotes 'peaceful reunification' as economic break for Taiwan

TAIWAN

China has renewed its push for "peaceful reunification" with Taiwan, claiming the move would unlock unprecedented economic opportunities for the island. The proposal, however, has been firmly rejected by Taiwan's government, which continues to resist Beijing's claims over its sovereignty.

At a weekly press briefing in Beijing, Chen Binhua, spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, emphasized that unification with China would significantly boost Taiwan's economic prospects. He argued that closer integration would allow Taiwan to benefit from China's vast market while leveraging its own strengths in technology, innovation, and skilled talent.

According to Chen, peaceful reunification would "reinvigorate" Taiwan's economy by creating new growth opportunities and providing

greater stability for investors and businesses. He described the proposal as offering unmatched potential and long-term confidence for Taiwan's economic development, particularly at a time when global markets remain uncertain.

China, which considers Taiwan part of its territory, has intensified efforts since late last year to promote the idea of reunification through economic incentives and diplomatic messaging. While Beijing continues to advocate for a peaceful approach, it has not ruled out the use of force, maintaining pressure on Taipei through both political and military means.

Taiwan, however, has consistently rejected China's proposals. The government led by President Lai Ching-te maintains that the island is already a self-governing democracy and does not require Beijing's authority. Taiwanese officials have also expressed skepticism over China's economic promises, pointing instead to domestic challenges within mainland China.

Taiwan's economy remains strong, driven largely by its global leadership in semiconductor manufacturing, a sector critical to emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. The island recorded robust economic growth of 8.68% in 2025, its fastest expansion in 15 years, with further growth expected in the near term.

Critics of Beijing's proposal argue that rather than offering assurances to Taiwan, China should focus on addressing its own economic and social issues. As tensions continue, the divide between the two sides highlights not only political differences but also competing visions for economic stability and future growth.

Ukraine extends range of strikes on Russia, hits oil targets

UKRAINE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has announced a significant escalation in Ukraine's military strategy, revealing that the country is extending the range of its strikes deep into Russian territory. The move marks a new phase in the conflict as Kyiv intensifies efforts to weaken Russia's war capabilities and disrupt its economic backbone.President Volodymyr Zelenskiy stated on Wednesday that Ukraine would continue to expand the reach of its long-range attacks, sharing footage that he claimed showed a successful strike at a distance exceeding 1,500 kilometers inside Russia. The announcement highlights Ukraine's growing military capability and its increasing reliance on advanced drone and missile systems to carry out deep strikes.

In recent weeks, Ukraine has stepped up its offensive strategy by targeting critical Russian infrastructure, particularly oil refineries, pumping stations, storage depots, and port facilities. These sites are considered vital to Moscow's war economy, as energy exports remain one of Russia's primary sources of revenue. By striking these assets, Ukraine aims to weaken Russia's financial capacity to sustain prolonged military operations.Zelenskiy described the latest attack as "a new stage" in the use of Ukrainian weapons, emphasizing that such operations are designed to limit Russia's war potential. He noted that the straight-line distance of the strike exceeded 1,500 kilometers and confirmed that Ukraine would continue to extend its operational reach in the coming weeks.Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) later reported that its drones successfully hit an oil pumping station near the Russian city of Perm during the overnight operation. The attack demonstrates Ukraine's ability to penetrate deep into Russian territory with increasing precision.

US intel assesses Iran's response to possible Trump victory claim

WASHINGTON

US intelligence agencies are closely analyzing how Iran might react if President Donald Trump declares a unilateral victory in the ongoing two-month-long war. The conflict, which has resulted in thousands of deaths, is increasingly seen as a political burden for the White House ahead of upcoming midterm elections.

According to U.S. officials and sources familiar with the matter, the intelligence community has been tasked with evaluating multiple scenarios, including the potential consequences of a sudden de-escalation by Washington. The assessment aims to provide clarity on how Iran's leadership would interpret and respond to a possible U.S. withdrawal following a declaration of victory by President Donald Trump. The ongoing conflict has placed mounting pressure on the administration, with concerns among officials and advisers that prolonged military engagement could negatively impact Republican prospects in the midterm elections. A swift de-escalation could help ease domestic political tensions, but it also carries strategic risks.

SUPPLY SHIFT

Russia reaffirms OPEC+ commitment amid UAE exit

MOSCOW

Russia has confirmed it will remain part of the OPEC+ alliance despite the United Arab Emirates' decision to withdraw from the group.

The development comes at a time of heightened instability in global energy markets, driven in part by the ongoing Iran conflict and growing divisions among major oil-producing nations.

The Kremlin on Wednesday emphasized the importance of the OPEC+ alliance, even as the United Arab Emirates announced its decision to leave the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The move by the UAE is seen as a significant setback for the coalition of oil producers, raising concerns about unity within the group during a period of global energy uncertainty.

Russia, which joined OPEC+ in 2016, remains one of its key members and is currently the second-largest producer in the alliance after Saudi Arabia. The UAE, prior to its exit, was the fourth-largest producer, making its departure a notable shift in the group's dynamics. The decision has highlighted underlying tensions among Gulf nations, particularly as the energy crisis linked to the Iran war continues to strain relationships.Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov stated that OPEC+ plays a crucial role in maintaining stability in global oil markets. He noted that the alliance helps to minimize fluctuations and provides a mechanism for balancing supply and demand during volatile periods. According to Peskov, such coordination is especially vital given the current disruptions affecting energy markets worldwide.

While expressing respect for the UAE's decision to withdraw, Russia signaled its intention to maintain strong energy cooperation with the Gulf nation. Officials in Moscow have indicated that bilateral dialogue on energy matters will continue, even outside the OPEC+ framework.

QUICK READ

EPFO settles record 8.31 crore claims in FY26

New Delhi

In a major boost to ease of access and digital transformation, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recorded its highest-ever claim settlements in the financial year 2025–26. According to official data, EPFO settled 8.31 crore claims during 2025–26, a significant jump from 6.01 crore claims in FY 2024–25. A large portion of these, 5.51 crore claims were advance or partial withdrawals, indicating improved accessibility for members to use their provident fund savings for urgent financial needs.

Sensex, Nifty end higher amid global uncertainty

Mumbai

Indian equity benchmarks ended higher on the Wednesday but surrendered a large portion of their intra-day gains as a sharp rise in global crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment. The Nifty closed at 24,177.65, up 0.76 per cent or 181.95 points, while the Sensex settled at 77,496.36, gaining 0.79 per cent or 609.45 points. From a technical standpoint, experts said that on the upside, 24,200 remains the first resistance. "On the downside, a breach of the 24,000–24,100 support band could weaken the structure in the short term, with 23,900 acting as the next support," an analyst stated.

India's gold jewellery demand falls 19% in Q1 2026

New Delhi

India's gold jewellery consumption fell sharply by 19% year-on-year to 66.1 tonnes in the first quarter of 2026 due to high domestic gold prices that were 81% higher compared to the same period last year, according to the World Gold Council's Gold Demand Trends report for Q1 2026. In value terms, jewellery demand hit a first-quarter record of $10 billion, underscoring a market that is buying less but spending more. The volume decline reflects a broad shift in purchasing behaviour. Mass-market consumers cut back on purchases or switched to lighter-weight, lower-carat, and studded jewellery to offset the price impact, while high-income buyers continued purchasing heavier pieces regardless of price.

India targets 500 GW clean energy capacity by 2030: Goyal

With 260 GW of clean energy already installed and a 500 GW target for 2030, India is combining climate leadership with wider global trade partnership; the country's policy initiatives have enabled it to make significant progress

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday highlighted India's strong performance in climate action, stating that the country has emerged as one of the best-performing nations globally.

Having already surpassed its renewable energy targets ahead of schedule, India is now setting its sights on achieving 500 gigawatts of clean energy capacity by 2030.

Speaking at the 'Advancing Resilience with Climate Change' dialogue, Piyush Goyal emphasized that India has consistently ranked among the top performers in the G20 when it comes to fulfilling its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). He noted that the country's proactive approach and policy initiatives have enabled it to make significant progress in reducing emissions intensity and expanding renewable energy capacity.

The minister recalled that India initially planned to install 20 gigawatts of solar capacity over a period of nearly a decade. However, after the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, the target was significantly scaled up to 100 gigawatts. According to Goyal, this ambitious goal was successfully achieved within the stipulated timeframe, demonstrating India's commitment to sustainable development.Building on this momentum, India has now set a much larger target of achieving 500 gigawatts of clean energy capacity by 2030. This includes a mix of solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources, aimed at reducing dependence on fossil fuels and ensuring energy security. The move is also expected to position India as a global leader in green energy transition.Goyal also highlighted India's pivotal role during the Paris COP21 climate summit. He stated that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India played a key role in bringing together developed, developing, and least-developed countries to reach a consensus-based agreement.

India steps up clean energy push, eyes 500 GW capacity by 2030: Joshi

NEW DELHI

India is accelerating its transition towards clean energy, with a clear roadmap to achieve 500 gigawatts (GW) of installed power capacity by 2030, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said on Wednesday.

Highlighting the country's rapid progress, he noted that India has already surpassed several key renewable energy milestones ahead of schedule.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 'Resilient Futures Summit 2026' held in the national capital, Pralhad Joshi emphasized that India's clean energy transformation has gained significant momentum under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He pointed out that the country has already achieved its ambitious target of sourcing 50% of its electricity from non-fossil fuel sources, accomplishing this goal five years ahead of its original timeline.

Joshi stated that nearly 30% of India's electricity generation now comes from renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, battery storage, and pumped storage systems. This diversified energy mix has not only strengthened the country's power infrastructure but also reduced dependence on conventional fossil fuels.

Highlighting recent achievements, the minister revealed that during peak demand periods, almost two-thirds of India's electricity needs were met through renewable energy sources. This milestone reflects both the expansion of generation capacity and improvements in transmission and grid management systems, ensuring efficient distribution of power across regions.

Describing the developments as a major "success story," Joshi said India is aggressively scaling up its energy capacity to meet future demands. He added that the country is well on track to achieve key energy milestones by 2027, further reinforcing its position as a global leader in clean energy adoption.

'As India moves forward with its ambitious targets, the clean energy sector is set to remain a cornerstone of its development strategy'

The government's continued focus on renewable energy is expected to play a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions, enhancing energy security, and supporting sustainable economic growth. As India

moves forward with its ambitious targets, the clean energy sector is set to remain a cornerstone of its development strategy.

Govt boosts tech-driven skilling with more funding

MUMBAI

India's skilling ecosystem is undergoing a major structural transformation, driven by technology-enabled, industry-aligned frameworks, the government said on Wednesday.

The Union Budget 2026-27 has further strengthened this shift by focusing on demand-driven training, measurable outcomes, and inclusive access to skill development initiatives.

According to an official statement, the Union Budget 2026-27 has integrated sector-specific skill development programmes with infrastructure expansion, ensuring that training aligns closely with industry needs. The government's approach emphasizes practical, job-oriented learning that enhances employability while addressing skill gaps across key sectors.Several flagship initiatives have been expanded and refined as part of this transformation. These include the upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes (it is), the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PM-KVY) 4.0, the PM–SETU programme, and the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS). Together, these reforms aim to improve the scale, quality, transparency, and industry linkage within the skilling ecosystem.

The policy framework also prioritizes emerging and high-growth sectors such as healthcare, the care economy, animation, visual effects, gaming and comics (AVGC), and tourism. By aligning skill development with these sectors, the government seeks to position human capital as a central driver of economic growth and innovation.

Officials highlighted that the focus on technology integration is helping modernize training delivery systems, enabling better tracking of outcomes and ensuring accountability. Additionally, the emphasis on inclusivity is expected to widen access to skill development opportunities for diverse sections of society, including rural and underrepresented communities.

The government noted that a resilient and future-ready skilling ecosystem not only boosts productivity but also accelerates the formalization of the workforce. By equipping individuals with relevant skills, India aims to effectively leverage its demographic advantage and translate it into sustainable and broad-based economic growth in the coming years.

'INDIA EMERGING AS ANCHOR OF GLOBAL STABILITY, GROWTH'

NEW DELHI

India is increasingly being viewed as a key force capable of shaping global peace, economic stability and technological progress, global experts said on Wednesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Economist Enterprise 'Resilient Futures Summit 2026'here, they emphasised India's rising influence in navigating geopolitical uncertainty, strengthening multilateral cooperation, and driving innovation in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. Danny Quah, Li Ka Shing professor in economics, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, noted that the evolving nature of global terrorism and shifting trade dynamics have injected significant uncertainty into the world economy.Quah emphasised that beyond trade disruptions,

a deeper concern lies in the erosion of global trust and weakening of multilateral systems that have traditionally underpinned international cooperation."India can play a big role in it and if India tries, there will be peace. People are looking towards India to bring a peace. I think people are looking to India to exercise appropriate leadership. It is still up to India to decide what appropriate. Adding to this perspective, Ian Blatchford, Director of the Science Museum in London, highlighted India's distinctive and optimistic approach towards artificial intelligence."If you look at public surveys in America and Europe, the majority of the population is nervous about artificial intelligence. The opposite is true in India. India is building capacity for artificial intelligence centres while also thinking deeply about what that means," Blatchford said.Blatchford also praised the broader achievements of the Global South, particularly India's developmental trajectory.

Kerala sees no load shedding, says KSEB

KOCHI

Kerala did not witness any load shedding on Tuesday, with only minimal and highly localised power restrictions imposed despite sustained high demand, according to the state power utility, the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB). KSEB also expressed concern over sections of the media reporting that load shedding had been imposed in Kerala.The utility said its earlier communication had been misinterpreted. The official statement had only authorised the Chief Engineer in charge of the Load Dispatch Centre to impose power curbs of less than 30 minutes strictly in situations where excessive load threatens the stability of the transmission and distribution network.

India maintains steady LPG supply amid Middle East disruptions

NEW DELHI

India's supply of cooking gas remains stable despite ongoing disruptions caused by the Middle East conflict, with no shortages reported across the country. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry confirmed that millions of LPG cylinders continue to be delivered daily, ensuring uninterrupted access for households and businesses.

According to an official statement, more than 50.8 lakh domestic LPG cylinders and over 73,000 small 5 kg cylinders were delivered across India on Tuesday. The ministry emphasized that there have been no "dry-outs" at retail distributorships, indicating a strong and resilient supply chain even amid global uncertainties.

The government has also seen a significant increase in digital engagement for LPG services. Online bookings for domestic LPG cylinders have reached 99 percent, reflecting widespread adoption of digital platforms by consumers. Additionally, around 94 percent of deliveries are now being completed using authentication code-based systems sent to registered mobile numbers. This step has been implemented to prevent diversion and ensure transparency at the distributor level.

The demand for auto LPG has also surged notably. Public sector oil companies reported average daily sales of 353 metric tonnes in April so far, compared to approximately 177 metric tonnes per day during January and February..

New Zealand PM hails FTA with India

NEW DELHI

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Wednesday described India-New Zealand free trade agreement (FTA) as a once-in-a-generation opportunity, underscoring the scale and potential of the Indian market. Days after the agreement was finalised in New Delhi, Luxon pointed to India's emergence as the world's most populous nation and a rapidly expanding consumer economy.

This deal is extremely exciting for New Zealand. It's going to create jobs, lift wages and provide more opportunities to Kiwis," he said in a video message shared on social media platform X.

"With a population of around 1.5 billion and rising income levels, India presents a vast and increasingly affluent market seeking high-quality goods and services," he noted.

Luxon emphasised that the FTA positions New Zealand to align closely with India's economic trajectory as it transitions toward becoming one of the world's largest economies.

"The agreement would significantly reduce trade barriers, noting that 57 per cent of New Zealand's exports to India would become tariff-free from day one, with further reductions phased in over time," he stated.

This would enhance the competitiveness of New Zealand products in the Indian market and allow Kiwi exporters to better compete globally," Luxon added.

TIGHTENED SCRUTINY

China blocks Meta's $2 billion AI deal

BEIJING

China has reportedly blocked Meta's proposed $2 billion acquisition of artificial intelligence startup Manus, citing national security concerns.

The move reflects Beijing's growing scrutiny over cross-border technology deals and signals stricter control over the transfer of sensitive AI capabilities to foreign companies. According to a report by Modern Diplomacy, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) ordered the deal to be unwound under

foreign investment security regulations introduced in 2021. The decision underscores Beijing's increasing efforts to regulate the flow of domestic technology, data, and talent to overseas entities, particularly in strategic sectors such as artificial intelligence.The report indicates that the authorities' concerns were not based solely on Manus' formal place of incorporation but rather on its underlying connections to China. These include links to domestic technology development, infrastructure, and data systems, which are considered sensitive from a national security standpoint. As a result, the Chinese government has taken a firm stance against allowing such assets to be transferred to foreign ownership, especially to U.S.-based firms like Meta.Manus, an emerging player in the AI sector, had previously attracted investment from American backers and later relocated its base overseas. Despite this shift, Chinese regulators reportedly viewed the company as still closely tied to domestic resources and expertise. This perception played a key role in the decision to halt the acquisition.The unwinding of the deal is expected to be a complex process, involving the reversal of equity transfers and the return of capital, as well as the reallocation of intellectual property. Such procedures are particularly challenging in knowledge-intensive industries like artificial intelligence, where ownership and control of data and innovations are critical.

SOORYAVANSHI becomes fastest batter to 400 IPL season runs in deliveries

MULLANPUR

Rajasthan Royals teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi scripted history in IPL 2026 by becoming the fastest batter to reach 400 runs in a season in terms of balls faced, achieving the feat in just 167 deliveries during Rajasthan Royals' clash against Punjab Kings. The 15-year-old opener surpassed the previous record held by Andre Russell, who had taken 188 balls to cross the milestone while representing Kolkata Knight Riders in the 2019 season. India batter Abhishek Sharma occupies the third spot after reaching the mark in 195 balls during IPL 2024.

Sooryavanshi reached the landmark at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, continuing his extraordinary rise as one of the brightest young talents in the tournament. The left-handed batter has been in sensational form throughout the ongoing season and is currently the first player to breach the 400-run mark in IPL 2026.

In nine matches so far, Sooryavanshi has amassed 400 runs at an impressive average of 44.44 and a staggering strike rate of 238.09.

His tally includes two half-centuries and a stunning century against Sunrisers Hyderabad earlier this season in Jaipur. His fearless strokeplay and consistency have made him one of the standout performers of the tournament, with bowlers struggling to contain his aggressive approach at the top of the order.

In the match against Punjab Kings, Sooryavanshi smashed 43 runs off just 16 balls, hitting three boundaries and five sixes, while Yashasvi Jaiswal contributed a brisk 51 off 27 deliveries to provide Rajasthan Royals a flying start in pursuit of 223.

Earlier, Punjab Kings posted 222/4 riding on unbeaten 62 off 22 balls from Marcus Stoinis and 59 from Prabhsimran Singh. However, a match-winning unbeaten partnership between Donovan Ferreira and Shubham Dubey guided Rajasthan Royals to victory with four balls remaining.

15-year-old RR opener breaks Andre Russell's long-standing record with explosive batting performances this season

Arjun Tendulkar, Siddhant Addhatrao cleared to participate in T20 Mumbai League auction

MUMBAI

Arjun Tendulkar and Siddhant Addhatrao have been cleared by the BCCI to participate in the upcoming T20 Mumbai League despite representing Goa and Pondicherry respectively in domestic cricket during the recently concluded season.

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) confirmed that both players would be included in the auction pool for Season 4 of the T20 Mumbai League after receiving approval from the Board of Control for Cricket in India.

"This is to inform you that the Board of Control for Cricket in India has approved the participation of Mr. Arjun Tendulkar and Mr. Siddhant Addhatrao in the T20 Mumbai League – Season 4," stated an MCA communication sent to franchise operators.

Addhatrao, a wicketkeeper-batter who made his Ranji Trophy debut during the 2024-25 season, represented Pondicherry last year, while Tendulkar has been playing domestic cricket for Goa over the past few seasons.

As per existing MCA regulations, local players returning after appearing as guest players for another state association are generally required to undergo a one-year cooling-off period before becoming eligible for Mumbai competitions. However, MCA secretary Unmesh Khanvilkar clarified that the rule would not apply in the present case.

"Since they have not participated in the T20 league organised by the association of their respective teams, the BCCI has allowed them to participate in the T20 Mumbai League," Khanvilkar said.

Addhatrao confirmed that he had already submitted the required No-Objection Certificate and expressed his excitement about returning to Mumbai cricket.

"I just want to enjoy Mumbai cricket, be it first-class, T20 Mumbai or maidan cricket," he said.

Riyan Parag sparks controversy after alleged vaping caught on live IPL broadcast cameras

MULLANPUR

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has landed in controversy after television cameras allegedly caught him vaping inside the dressing room during his team's IPL 2026 clash against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur.

The visuals, aired during the live broadcast, appeared to show the RR skipper inhaling from what looked like an e-cigarette while seated in the dressing room. The footage quickly spread across social media platforms, triggering sharp reactions from fans and cricket followers.

India banned e-cigarettes under the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019, which prohibits their production, sale, distribution and advertisement. Violations can attract imprisonment of up to one year and a fine of Rs 1 lakh for first-time offenders.

Parag, who scored a brisk 29 off 16 balls in Rajasthan Royals' successful chase of 223, has endured a mixed season with the bat but now finds himself under scrutiny for off-field reasons.

IPL and BCCI officials involved with the tournament reportedly described the act as "careless" in an era dominated by constant television coverage and social media attention.

"A lot of players consume e-cigarettes but they do not do it openly in dressing rooms. It is risky and careless with cameras everywhere. The BCCI could now be compelled to take note," an IPL source was quoted as saying.

No official statement had been issued by Rajasthan Royals at the time of reporting. The controversy has also reignited discussions over dressing room privacy during IPL broadcasts. According to sources, several captains had raised concerns during a pre-season IPL meeting in Mumbai regarding cameras frequently focusing on dressing room areas during matches. Officials reportedly clarified that decisions regarding live broadcast camera feeds rest with broadcasters and not directly with the BCCI.

This is the second controversy involving Rajasthan Royals this season. Earlier, team manager Romi Bhinder was fined Rs 1 lakh for breaching PMOA protocol after allegedly using a mobile phone in the dugout during a match.

Health experts have consistently warned that vaping poses significant health risks despite being considered less harmful than conventional smoking. According to medical experts, nicotine in e-cigarettes is highly addictive and can increase blood pressure and heart-related risks.

Abhishek Sharma's detailed preparation driving explosive IPL 2026 form, says Franklin

MUMBAI

Abhishek Sharma's fearless batting in IPL 2026 is backed by meticulous preparation and tactical awareness, according to James Franklin, assistant coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Franklin highlighted the opener's detailed approach to studying opposition bowlers and planning his innings well in advance.

"As far as Abhishek is concerned, he is very detailed with how he plans and prepares for oppositions. He will know and understand what bowlers will try and present to him, particularly in the PowerPlay," Franklin said.

Abhishek has emerged as one of the standout performers of the ongoing IPL season, leading the run charts with 380 runs from eight matches.

His aggressive stroke-play at the top of the order has played a key role in Sunrisers Hyderabad's strong campaign so far.

The left-handed batter has consistently dominated bowlers during the PowerPlay overs while also showing awareness of match situations, making him one of the most dangerous openers this season.

Franklin noted that Abhishek actively engages in discussions regarding opposition bowlers and possible strategies they may employ against him.

"He likes to have conversations around the different bowlers that he is going to be coming up against in the next game. So, he will be well aware of potentially how they might come at him," Franklin explained.

Earlier in the tournament, Abhishek had fallen to a slower-ball variation from Mohammed Shami during a match against Lucknow Super Giants, raising speculation that Mumbai Indians might attempt a similar tactic.

However, Franklin believes the batter's anticipation and preparation make him capable of adapting quickly to different challenges.

The upcoming contest could also see an exciting battle between Abhishek and premier Mumbai Indians pacer Jasprit Bumrah, whose ability to strike early remains vital for Mumbai's chances.

With both teams eyeing important points in the league stage, Abhishek's form at the top may once again prove decisive for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

FIFA introduces double yellow-card reset rule for 2026 WC knockout stage

ZURICH

The world governing body of football FIFA has introduced a significant rule change for the FIFA World Cup 2026, altering how yellow-card suspensions are handled in the expanded 48-team tournament format.

Under the revised regulation, players' yellow-card records will now be cleared twice during the competition to reduce the risk of key footballers missing important knockout-stage matches due to accumulated cautions.

According to FIFA, the decision was approved by the FIFA Council following a review of the new tournament structure, which will include an additional round-of-32 stage for the first time in World Cup history.

"Reflective of the expanded format with an extra knockout round, the FIFA Council confirmed an amendment to the regulations for the FIFA World Cup 2026 whereby single yellow cards in the final competition will be cancelled after the group stage and then again after the quarterfinals," FIFA said in a statement.

BHUVNESHWAR SAYS DEFENSIVE BOWLING AGAINST AGGRESSIVE T20 BATTERS IS SMART CRICKET

NEW DELHI

Bhuvneshwar Kumar believes bowlers in modern T20 cricket must embrace defensive tactics and disciplined planning against hard-hitting batters, insisting that being defensive does not necessarily mean negative cricket.

The experienced Royal Challengers Bengaluru pacer delivered a sensational spell of 3/5 against Delhi Capitals during their IPL 2026 clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Alongside Australian quick Josh Hazlewood, who claimed 4/12, Bhuvneshwar dismantled Delhi's batting line-up as the hosts were bundled out for just 75 runs.

RCB chased down the modest target in only 6.3 overs with nine wickets remaining to register a commanding victory.

Reflecting on the evolving nature of T20 batting, Bhuvneshwar said modern players attack relentlessly even when conditions favour bowlers, forcing seamers to adapt strategically.

"The biggest change is that batters no longer hold back, even when the ball is swinging in the powerplay. Earlier, there was more respect for conditions, but now the approach is consistently aggressive," Bhuvneshwar said.

"That is where the mindset shift for bowlers becomes important. Being defensive is not negative, it is about bowling to a plan and targeting weaknesses," he added.

The veteran swing bowler explained that bowlers naturally become more attacking when conditions offer movement through the air or off the pitch. However, on flat batting-friendly surfaces, controlling boundaries becomes the primary objective.

"On flat wickets with no assistance, the approach becomes more defensive, not in a negative way, but with the focus on controlling runs and avoiding boundaries, especially against aggressive batters," he said.

Bhuvneshwar also credited preparation and communication for RCB's dominant bowling display alongside Hazlewood.

"A lot of it comes down to preparation and understanding situations. Even small details matter, and having experienced players like Josh helps because communication on the field becomes crucial," he noted.

Widely regarded as one of India's finest swing bowlers, Bhuvneshwar attributed his control and consistency to extensive red-ball cricket experience.

Sunrisers Hyderabad (249/4) beat Mumbai Indians (243/5) by 6 wickets at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday.

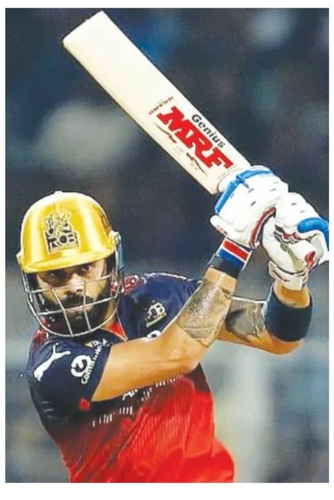
Mitchell McClenaghan calls Virat Kohli greatest batter in IPL history after landmark feat

NEW DELHI

Former New Zealand pacer Mitchell McClenaghan has hailed Virat Kohli as the greatest batter in Indian Premier League history following the Royal Challengers Bengaluru star's latest milestone in IPL 2026.

Kohli recently became the first batter to cross the 9,000-run mark in IPL history during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's emphatic victory over Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

The veteran batter finished unbeaten on 23 off just 15 deliveries, sealing the modest 76-run chase with consecutive sixes as RCB cruised to a dominant nine-wicket win in only 6.3 overs.



McClenaghan praised Kohli's remarkable consistency and ability to evolve throughout his IPL journey since the tournament's inception in 2008.

"Virat Kohli has been incredibly consistent. Scoring 9,000 IPL runs against the world's best bowlers is no easy task. It is about hunger, discipline and adapting every year, and that is what brings the best out of him," McClenaghan said.

The former left-arm pacer highlighted how Kohli successfully transformed his batting role over the years, beginning as a lower middle-order player before becoming one of the most dominant top-order batters in T20 cricket.

"He did not start his career as an opener. He batted in the lower middle order, fought for his place, then moved to number three. Later, he opened with Chris Gayle. That changed his game completely," he added.

McClenaghan also predicted another major landmark for the former India captain, saying Kohli would soon become the first batter to score 10,000 IPL runs.

"He will soon reach 10,000 runs, without a doubt. Kohli is the greatest batter the IPL has ever seen, not just for the runs, but for how he has evolved and dominated across different eras," he stated.

Kohli now has 9,012 runs in 275 IPL matches at an average of 40.05, including eight centuries and 66 half-centuries. In IPL 2026, he has already amassed 351 runs in eight innings at a strike rate exceeding 162.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.